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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Business

The federal, states and local governments shared N4.17 trillion from the Federation Account in 2009 **25**

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I don't believe it was Yar'adua's voice — Lawmaker



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The Yar'adua health crisis:

7-man House team to visit Jeddah

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

HOURS after the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua was heard on the airwaves of the British Broadcasting Corporation

[BBC] granting a brief but halting interview, the House of Representatives yesterday resolved to constitute a 7-man delegation to visit him in Saudi Arabia in order "to convey the members' goodwill

message and discuss other issues of national importance."

The House session was still going on when a group of protesters under the aegis of 'Save Nigeria' led by Nobel laureate Prof. Wole

Soyinka stormed the National Assembly Complex in Abuja to protest Yar'adua's continued absence from the country. They also demanded that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan take over the

country's leadership as enshrined in the Constitution. The protesters later booed House Speaker Dimeji Bankole and rejected his offer to address them.

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What Yar'adua said on BBC

"At the moment I'm undergoing treatment and I'm getting better from the treatment. I hope that very soon there will be tremendous progress which will allow me to get back home. I wish, at this stage, to thank all Nigerians for their prayers for my good health, and for their prayers for the nation.

"As soon as my doctors discharge me I will return to Nigeria to resume my duties. I would also like to use this opportunity to wish our team, the Super Eagles good luck in the Nations Cup going on in Angola."



NOBEL Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka, leader of the Save Nigeria Group, addressing the rally at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja, yesterday.

Soyinka: He's gone AWOL

By Abbas Jimoh, Muideen Olaniyi, AbdulMutallib Abubakar & Misbahu Bashir

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua has absconded from duty and is

presently absent without official leave (AWOL), Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka, declared in Abuja yesterday.

He was speaking at the protest march organised by the Save

Nigeria Group (SNG) to turn the heat on ailing President Yar'adua who in the early hours of yesterday (Monday) spoke on his improving health condition on a BBC news programme.

Some of the speakers also called on the National Assembly to impeach the president if he fails to invoke the provisions of Section 145 of the Constitution.

Continued on page 5

Yar'adua's BBC interview

I don't believe it was Yar'adua's voice – Lawmaker

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

AN ANPP member in the Bauchi State House of Assembly representing Tafawa Balewa constituency, Muhammad Aminu Tukur, has described yesterday's interview with President Umaru Musa Yar'adua on the BBC as "another lie" by the Presidency to continue hoodwinking Nigerians on the true health situation of the president.

President Yar'adua who was taken to a

Saudi hospital over 50 days ago yesterday featured on the BBC radio, saying he was responding treatment and hoped to return to the country soon amid protests by some prominent Nigerians who are calling for his resignation.

In an interview with our correspondent in Bauchi yesterday, Tukur, an ANPP legislator who refused to decamp along with the state governor to the PDP last year, said he found it hard to believe that it was the

president speaking.

"He have talented people like Kannywood's popular comedian, Sadi Sidi Sharifai, who can imitate anyone's voice. I am not impressed. Let them have the president speak on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) where we can watch and hear him. The situation is beyond voice evidence. I know that by now the Presidency is desperate to deceive Nigerians on the true health situation of the president."

The legislator said it was high time the Presidency respected the sensibilities of Nigerians and told them what is actually going on with the president's health and not see such calls as coming from enemies.

"It is our collective prayer that the president is alive and recuperating. We are all mortals and will leave this world and can as well fall sick but that does not mean we should not show concern for the welfare of the nation", he said.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

'Politicians create unnecessary tension over Yar'adua's health'

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association in Sokoto State Mr. Jacob Ochidi has criticised politicians for the tension created in the country over President Umaru Yar'adua's health and suggested that the Vice-President be sworn in as Acting President. Speaking with *Daily Trust* in Sokoto yesterday, Ochidi said, "The issue of Mr. President is being politicized, it is the politicians of this country that are causing the problem otherwise the situation we have at hand has been taken care of by the constitution". He added, "Because of the politics involved, the powers that be have not allowed the Constitution to take its place." He said Vice President Goodluck Jonathan should have been Acting President all the while as provided for by Section 145 of the Constitution that whenever the president is not in a position to perform the full functions of his office, he transmits that information to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to enable the Vice President act as president.

"The NBA has taken a stand on this and has urged that the Vice President to be sworn in as Acting President and that is what it should be. It is the politics behind it, otherwise there is no need to create tension, right now there is tension in the country and it is likely to snowball into crisis. It is not supposed to be so", he stated. He also described as unwarranted and an undeserved punishment, the listing of Nigeria as a terrorist country. "It is very unfair, if you look at it from every angle, Nigerians as a whole, there is no need to punish the whole country."

BBC interview not enough, hand over now – NLC chief

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

AS Nigerians continue to ponder on President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's interview aired on BBC radio yesterday, the National Vice President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Comrade Isa Aremu has urged him to get rid of

self-serving politicians and hand over to the Vice-President.

The president yesterday spoke to Nigerians through a BBC radio interview. Comrade Issa Aremu in his reaction said the president could resume when he recovers.

He added that the president's aides must frankly help him to avoid wasting his efforts.

"The president should not give room to mischief makers and political opportunists who want to rubbish all the good works he has done for this country on account of his alleged regard for due process. The president has actually 'resigned' to attend to his health and the country goes on rather badly. The country can do better if he formally man-

dates the Vice President to continue from where he stopped. Nigerians need somebody to talk to them on minimum wage, factory closures, energy crisis and other critical issues of governance. The best way for the president to consolidate is to attend to his health and make sure the health of the country does not suffer", Aremu said.

Yar'adua sounded very healthy – Walid Jibril

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

VICE President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) Senator Walid Jibril has said that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua sounded "very healthy" in his brief interview with the BBC yesterday.

Speaking with journalists in Kano yesterday, Jibril said President Yar'adua did not sound indisposed, and his voice brought hope to the nation.

Jibril noted that the BBC interview had put to shame, activists that are marching against him. "The

activists' ranting is nothing. It's not something to concentrate on. His voice on the BBC has put them to shame," said Jibril.

According to him, there should not have been any cause for alarm since everything is running smoothly in the country. He said the fact that his

medical trip to Saudi Arabia was publicized to the nation by the Presidency explains that there was no mystery or secrecy surrounding his health.

While expressing his pleasure that the president is now talking, he prayed to God for his quick recovery.

Senate summons Yayale over Yar'adua's health

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE yesterday resolved to invite the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed to brief it on the current state of Mr. President's medical condition.

The resolution followed a heated debate by senators about a motion on the absence of President Umaru Yar'adua moved by Deputy

Senate President Ike Ekweremadu on behalf of 29 other senators.

Senator Ekweremadu said that the Senate was worried that the absence of Mr. President for a long period due to ill health has generated anxiety amongst the people of Nigeria, saying "In the midst of all these there is no authoritative and authentic information on the true affairs regarding the health of the President."

The deputy Senate President prayed that since President Yar'adua has failed to formally communicate to the National Assembly that he was proceeding on vacation to enable Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to act, "The Senate should accordingly resolve to send a delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ascertain the situation and report thereon within one week."

But his prayer was opposed by several senators who argued that the Senate lacks constitutional powers to cause investigation into the President's health.

Senate had invited the personal physician to the President to also brief it but after professional advice by Senator Jibril Aminu (PDP, Adamawa) who said the doctor may not be willing to reveal the true state of the

President's health owing to oath of secrecy as enshrined in code of medical practice, he was left out.

While guiding the proceedings, Senate President David Mark reminded his colleagues that the National Assembly is constrained by Sections 144 and 145 of the Constitution as they have no power to question the President's decision not to communicate or initiate investigation into his ill health.



PIC: NAN

FROM left: Central Bank of Nigeria Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Minister of Finance Dr. Mansur Muhtar, Deputy Chairman/Minister of National Planning Commission Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman and Vice President Goodluck Jonathan at the National Economic Council meeting in Abuja yesterday.

...reacts to President's comment on BBC

SENATOR Nuhu Aliyu (PDP, Niger North) says "It is the right of every Nigerian to know the condition of health of Mr. President. I heard that he spoke to BBC this morning. Why BBC? Why not NTA or FRCN?"

Senator Chris Anyanwu (PDP, Imo) questioned the interview on the BBC, suggesting that Mr. President should be encouraged to brief the people within 24 hours on local media stations.

Some senators moved that the motion be dumped as it could be prejudicial to legal actions that have been instituted on the President's health by some individuals.

Coming under Order 53 (g) of the Senate Standing Rules, Senator Garba Yakubu Lado (PDP, Katsina South) said some persons have already taken the matter to court and that any debate on the floor of the Senate could be prejudicial to the court proceedings.

But in his ruling, Senator Mark ruled Lado out of order saying, "I am convinced that what we are about to discuss will not in any way be prejudicial to the case in the law court. We should not make this a complex matter; let us keep our debate out of Sections 144 and 145."

Yar'adua debate: Senate to grill NTA over blackout

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE has accused the management of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) of sabotaging its debate on President Umaru Yar'adua's health by deliberately breaching an agreement to televise the proceeding live on television.

Briefing newsmen shortly after the debate session yesterday, Chairman Senate Committee on Information and

Media, Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said the Senate will conduct a comprehensive investigation into the reason behind NTA's decision not to conduct the live broadcast as agreed without consulting the leadership of Senate.

"The first thing I want to say is to inform Nigerians that this morning, we are billed to take this debate that happened live and we had informed NTA accordingly and the NTA man-

agement refused to bring the live cameras," he said

"I think it was an attempt to frustrate the effort of the Senate to brief the people of Nigeria live so that they can see what we are talking about and it was an attempt to frustrate our independent arm of government."

He said the Director General of NTA, Mallam Usman Magawata will face the Senate to explain the reasons behind his action.

Opposition divided over Yar'adua's comment

By Muideen Olaniyi

OPPOSITION politicians yesterday expressed divergent views over the interview which President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had with British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), confirming that he was still alive.

The National Chairman of All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), Chief Victor Umeh, voiced happiness over the development, saying it would douse tension generated by his long absence for almost two months.

Umeh, who said Nigerians want the President to come back and continue to tackle the challenges facing the country, prayed for his quick recovery.

National Publicity Secretary of Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) Mr Osita Okechukwu said President Yar'adua should avail himself of the provisions of Section 145 to enable him concentrate on medical treatment.

He said: "Whether he is in Saudi Arabia or South Africa is immaterial. What we can understand from his voice is that he is still very sick. He should avail himself of the provisions of Section 145 of the Constitution so that he can recover fully and come

back. He should hand over to the Vice President"

The Action Congress (AC), in its reaction, condemned President Yar'adua for addressing Nigerians through the foreign media, describing it as the latest example of the contempt which Nigerian leaders have for their people.

AC, through its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, wondered why President Yar'adua, who has been away for 50 days, will choose to address his compatriots through a foreign medium.

Mohammed described the action as the vestige of colonial mentality and wondered if the British Prime Minister will address his people through Radio Nigeria or NTA.

He recalled that the President also chose a foreign newspaper - Financial Times - to break his silence on his state of health shortly after assuming office.

"Apparently, the BBC interview was intended by President Yar'adua to address foreigners. Now, the President must speak to his own people, Nigerians, through any of the national broadcast stations, the News Agency of Nigeria or local newspapers. Anything short of that is totally unacceptable," the party also stated.

Yar'adua: Nigerians in UK to protest Friday

By Ibrahim Chomaha, London

NIGERIANS in the United Kingdom are to stage a protest in London against President Umaru Yar'adua's absence from office and the Umar Farouk Mutallab incident on Christmas day.

The protest, scheduled for Friday, January 15th, is organized by the UK-based Nigeria Liberty Forum and the Save Nigeria Working Group.

A statement by Debbie Ariyo

said the Save Nigeria Group had met with the London Metropolitan Police, which moved the protest from Tuesday to Friday, on grounds of safety and security to the participants and the public.

Issues to be raised during the protest, the statement said, include President Yar'adua's whereabouts, adherence to the Nigerian constitution, sovereign national conference, "criminalization of Nigeria and Nigerians, as well as respecting the rights of Nigerians."

"What is happening in Nigeria affects all of us, directly or indirectly. Let's show the world that we care about our country. If you fail to join, the stigmatization will continue to affect us and the future of our children", the statement said.

The statement advised participants to gather at the Parliament Square, Central London, where the protest will begin before moving to the Nigeria High Commission at Northumberland Avenue.

THE MARCH TO FORCE YAR'ADUA'S HAND

PIX: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



FROM right: Pastor Tunde Bakare, Professor Wole Soyinka, Ayo Obe and Hajiya Najaatu Mohammed at the rally organised by Save Nigeria Group in Abuja, yesterday.



ENGINEER Buba Galadima addressing the rally



HAIJIYA Najaatu Mohammed addressing the rally



PARTICIPANTS at the Save Nigeria Group rally at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja, yesterday.



MOBILE policemen keeping watch on the procession.



PARTICIPANTS march along a street in Abuja.

Group stages pro-Yar'adua rally in Abuja

By AbdulMutallib A. Abubakar

A pro-Yar'adua group yesterday staged a peaceful demonstration led by Alhaji Aminu Dan Arewa, saying that ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua will not resign since he was duly elected by Nigerians. Dan Arewa said the Support Yar'adua Group is convinced that President Yar'adua is fast recovering as the nation was told and as his brief interview on BBC Hausa service showed. He said many people who have come from various parts of the country to participate in the rally could not make it to the venue due to exhaustion. The rally was staged shortly after Professor Wole Soyinka, Naja'atu Muhammad, Femi Falana, Faruk Adamu Aliyu and a host of others led a protest to the National Assembly demanding that President Yar'adua avails himself of relevant sections of the constitution and hand over power to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.



FROM left: Mr. Lance Elekama, Assistant Director-General, Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE), Prof. Ndidi Okereke Onyuike, Director General and Mr. Onyewuchi Asinobi, Managing Director, Central Security Clearing System, at a news conference on the activities of the NSE in Lagos yesterday.

7-man House team to visit Jeddah

Continued from page 1

The Speaker had earlier read the House resolutions on the floor after emerging from a 2-hour closed door session. He said the MPs "have fully understood" the provisions of section 145 of the constitution and all the extant laws relating to the issue at hand and will be guided by them. He commended Nigerians for their understanding and prayers for the President's quick recovery.

Bankole said, "The House in a closed session reviewed the situation around Mr President and resolved as follows: that the House of Representatives do fully understand and appreciate the provisions of section 145 of the con-

stitution and all the extant laws relating to the issue at hand and do hereby further assure Nigerians that we shall continue to be guided by the constitution at all times and in all situations.

"That a delegation of the House shall be constituted to visit Mr President in Saudi Arabia to convey the goodwill message of the House of Representatives and discuss other issues of national importance and report back to the House. The House commends Nigerians for their understanding and prayers for the quick recovery of Mr President".

But Prof Soyinka, in his address at the National Assembly, said the Vice President must be sworn as acting President in com-

pliance with constitutional provisions. He said since the President's sudden trip to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment, the country was thrown into confusion and uncertainties, adding that it will be criminal for the country to be run that way.

He said, "At the moment we are not governed by any law and the National Assembly passed an Appropriation Act but it was not implemented. A criminal cabal holds this country hostage". He rejected Speaker Bankole's offer to address the crowd. Soyinka was accompanied by, among others, Femi Falana, Buba Galadima, Olisa Agbakoba, Naja'atu Bala Mohammed and Tunji Abayomi.

Also briefing newsmen after

yesterday's closed House session, the Action Congress (AC) Caucus led by Rep Femi Gbajabamila (AC, Lagos State) insisted that the Vice President be sworn in as acting President in the interest of the country.

He said the MPs must invoke sections 88 and 89 of the section which empower them to oversee the activities of the executive arm of government to force the President to temporarily relinquish power to the vice president.

However, the ANPP Caucus led by Rep Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) blamed the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for its failure to take action on the issue. Ndume said, "Members of the ANPP in

the House of Representatives wish to clearly state that the issues at stake lie in the Federal Executive Council (which hitherto failed to take action in accordance with section 145 of the constitution).

According to him, it is surprising that the FEC which continuously sits to award contracts failed to discharge "this single and very important constitutional responsibility in order to move the country forward".

He added, "We believe that the Federal Executive Council is the only statutory body charged with the responsibility to initiate action on the matter by law. They still have a window of opportunity to remedy the situation at their next meeting."

Soyinka: He's gone AWOL

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The rally, which started around 9.45 am at the Unity Fountain, near Transcorp Hotel, Central Business District, witnessed a large turnout of protesters and organisers of the march with heavy presence of security personnel led by ACP Wilson Inalegwu.

Soyinka said, "If President Yar'adua walks here on his two legs today, we will cheer him as a fellow human being who recovers from a vey trying illness, but at the same time we will challenge him with all the issues I can see held up and which goes to the very heart of the continued existence of this nation.

We will challenge him on the continued corrupt company that we see flocking around and controlling affairs from Aso Rock. We will challenge him about known torturers, self confessed torturers like Zakari Bui under the Abacha regime, who has been reinstated in the police force. Is it preparation towards torture, arbitrary

arrest, and extra judicial killings towards the next election?"

"It is not simply because the president went AWOL, that is absent without official leave, and in a way that has flouted the constitution. It is not the lackadaisical attitude of the vice president even if he failed to do minimal functions of the presidency, it would not have constituted any danger to anybody or to the man who is absent, no; there are more fundamental issues here and those things being deliberately held up by those who controlled power around Aso Rock must be tackled with upmost expediency. Foremost among them, this nation should not go to the next election under the old electoral law. It is totally unacceptable; it is a means of perpetuating what is already an illegitimate and corrupt government. These anomalies must be tackled."

President of the West African Bar Association (WABA) Femi Falana insisted that the constitution be respected and that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan be

sworn-in as acting president.

Publicity Secretary of the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), Osita Okechuku, urged the National Assembly to impeach President Yar'adua for violating the Constitution. He said, "The cabal holding us to ransom said they would not obey the constitution because it is Goodluck Jonathan.

We are saying the institutions of democracy must be fortified. We cannot build individuals, we must be building institutions. Goodluck Jonathan to the best of our knowledge might not give us good governance, but we are talking about the institution of the vice president.

"Since Thursday that we started, they have changed tactics and we are saying our humble mission is to get the National Assembly to pass a resolution. We don't want them to go Saudi Arabia; there is no need for them to go to Saudi Arabia. The business is to pass a resolution, if President Umaru Yar'adua fails to invoke Section 145 of the Con-

stitution, the National Assembly should impeach him because he is violating section 145 of the Constitution and this is not the first time he is violating that section. We want him to avail himself of the section to enable him recover fully without being distracted by his schedules of duty."

Hajia Naja'atu Mohammed said, "It is disheartening that we are being ruled by a small minority. Nigerians must rise up to their responsibilities. Nothing is working in this country today. The issue is constitutional; we should not allow this conspiracy to continue because as a Northerner, I know they are now trying the Northern cries, that it is a Northerner's turn, that they would not give it to Jonathan because it is the Northerners' turn. There is nothing like the Northern turn in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We have equal rights in the Constitution. So far, President Yar'adua has left his seat without permission; that in itself is impeachable and we must take our destiny in our

hands. If we are afraid of our shadows, we would continue to run."

Meanwhile, FCT Police Public Relations Officer Superintendent Jimoh Moshood said enough policemen monitored the rally and it ended peacefully. He said despite fears of unpredicted political motives behind the rallies, neither the policemen nor any of the protesters was molested and that the police were impressed.

The police had earlier said the organisers of the rally did not ask for permission at the initial stage. Police intelligence indicated there were no threats to subvert the rally, otherwise it would have been prevented.

Others at the rally which terminated at the National Assembly include Dr. Tunde Bakare, ex-House of Representatives member Farouk Adamu Aliyu, Mr. Solomon Asemota (SAN), Pastor Sarah Omakwu, Olawale Oshun, Dr. Tunji Abayomi, Mrs. Ayo Obe, Mallam Naseer Kura, Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin, Uche Onyeogocha, Engr Buba Galadima and Malam Uba Sani.

Hausas give conditions for leaving Jos

From Andrew Agbese and Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

A cross section of members of the Hausa community in Jos, Plateau State, have indicated interest to leave the city if given compensation on their property.

The spokesman of youths in eight wards that make up Jos North, Engineer Mohammed Bala Tahir, stated this yesterday before the panel set up by the Federal Government to investigate the crisis that followed the local

government election in the state in November 2008.

Tahir said, "We want the Plateau State or Federal Government to evacuate and takes us to any part of the country provided it will pay us compensation in cash including all our investments and graves of our ancestors and fore fathers and mothers buried in Jos or to take Jos back to Bauchi State where we belonged but removed from the state by the colonial masters in 1920."

He said they were tired of con-

stant marginalization, killings, maiming and destruction of their businesses by government and those he called "so called" indigenes of Plateau State.

Tahir said he was a descendant of a ruler called Sarki Usman who was the seventh Hausa ruler in Jos in the 18th century and blamed security operatives for taking part in the crisis where they killed hundreds of innocent of Hausa citizens. He brought three witnesses who alleged that they were shot by soldiers which led to the

amputation of their legs. A coalition of Plateau State women who were accompanied by the Commissioner for Women Affairs Mrs Serah Yusuf said women were the worst hit in the crisis.

Their spokeswoman, Mrs Martina Kuru, identified indigeneship, ownership of Jos, politics, ignorance and unemployment as the major causes of the mayhem and advised relevant authorities to address the matter in other to have sustainable peace.

In their submission, the

spokesmen of the Naraguta community, Isma'ila Shuaibu Abdullahi and Reverend Timothy Abbe, demand compensations for the losses they suffered.

Isma'ila alleged that students of the University of Jos and ex-military men within the neighboring Anaguta community attacked their community and killed 28 people, burnt their houses and destroyed their property. Reverend Timothy said his house and shop were burnt in Nassarawa Gwom.

PIC: NAN

Britons, Colombian kidnapped in P/Harcourt

THREE British people and a Colombian have been seized in Port Harcourt, security sources said yesterday.

Kidnappers snatched the four near the city, reportedly killing a Nigerian guard.

Reuters news agency reported that gunmen snatched the four yesterday morning as they made their way to work at a power plant. Britain's Foreign Office said it was looking into the report. No group claimed responsibility before press time yesterday.

Militants in the Niger Delta have cost Nigeria's oil industry millions of dollars over the years.

A variety of groups claimed to be fighting for the rights of local people to gain a greater share of the region's wealth.

The oil-producing region is notorious for kidnappings by militants, who demand a greater share of its wealth.

But the area has been relatively calm since most major militant groups agreed to lay down their arms last year after the government offered an amnesty. (Reuters)

Oshiomhole nominates commissioners

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Adams Oshiomhole has sent nominations to the state House of Assembly for approval as commissioners.

They include Barr. Ansem Ojezua, Dr. Cordelia Aiyowieren-Awize and Barr. Lucas Okojie. If confirmed, they are to fill the vacancies in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Arts, Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Transport.

It would be recalled that three members of the Peoples Democratic Party who were serving as commissioners in the Oshiomhole's administration resigned in September last year.



FROM left: Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Tambari Muhammed, National Chairman, Police Community Relations Committee, Alhaji Ahmed Tahir and Community Policy Management team leader, ACP Dasuki Galadanchi, at a training workshop on sustainability of community policing in Kaduna yesterday.

Oyegun faults Anenih over comments on Oshiomhole

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE former chairman, Board of Trustees of the PDP Chief Tony Anenih has come under criticism for scoring Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole's administration low in performance.

The criticism came from the former governor of the state, Chief John Oyegun, who

described Anenih's comments as unfortunate.

Chief Oyegun told newsmen in Benin yesterday that in one year Governor Oshiomhole had done more for the development of the state than what the PDP did in 10 years.

The former governor said though he was a member of the ANPP, the party was supporting Oshiomhole because according

to him, he has broken an age long hegemony in the state.

He described Oshiomhole as someone who has a dream, drive and energy and knows what he wants to accomplish for the state.

He said he was confident that at the end of Oshiomhole's tenure in office, Edo State would never remain the same again.

On how to empower vice presidents and deputy governors to take over whenever the president or the governor is absent from duty, the former governor said the incumbents should be allowed to pick their deputies.

He said the present situation whereby vice presidents or governors are imposed on them always lead to distrust and suspicion.

Lagos set to impound unpainted commercial vehicles

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government has given three weeks grace to operators of unpainted commercial vehicle in the state to paint their in the official Lagos yellow colour or have their vehicles impounded by officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA).

LASTMA had observed that the number of unpainted vehicles had been on the increase, saying this poses a serious security threat.

The Special Adviser to Governor Babatunde Fashola on Transportation Kayode Opeifa said series of complaints had been received from the people that such unpainted vehicles were

often used for criminal activities including robbery, rituals and kidnapping.

Opeifa added that the directive from the state government to the owners of such vehicles expired since December 2009, adding that from February 1 2010, all law enforcement agents in the state would be directed to ensure total compliance with the

directive. Meanwhile, the Special Adviser has warned members of LASTMA to be more committed to serving people of Lagos and avoid overzealousness, bribery and corruption as these had been noticed among them by government.

He warned that the state government would not hesitate to sack any erring official.

Militants responsible for 6,000mw failure – FG

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Federal Government failed to meet the 6,000 megawatt target in December last year because of militant activities in the Niger-Delta, Minister of Commerce and Industry Chief

Achike Udenwa said in Kano Monday.

Speaking at a campaign to encourage the patronage of locally-made goods, Chief Udenwa said, but for militants, the Yar'adua administration would have delivered the 6,000

megawatts of electricity to Nigerians. He said the Federal Government was still working to achieve the target, adding that the amnesty programme had reduced militancy in the region and that gas was now reaching the thermal plants without any

hitch.

He lamented that many industries in the country were idle, saying lack of patronage of locally made products by Nigerians was one of the major factors hampering the growth of local industries.

Udenwa said dumping of substandard foreign goods, multiple taxation and counterfeiting were also crippling the local industries.

The minister visited the emir's palace, deputy governor's office and some industries in the state.

Kogi L G chairmen to rule for 3 years – Court

From Isiaka Wakili

A Lokoja High Court has declared as unconstitutional attempts by the Kogi State House of Assembly to reduce the tenure of local government council chairmen from three to two years. The presiding judge, Justice Tom Yakubu, in his ruling yesterday said though the House had the legislative responsibility to enact laws for the establishment, composition, structure, finance and functions of local government councils, it must perform such functions in accordance with section 128 of the 1999 constitution. The state chapter of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGN) and three chairmen on behalf of their colleagues had taken the issue of tenure reduction to court, contending that certain provisions in the state local government laws 2008 passed into law by the House on March 11, 2009 limiting their tenure to two years were inconsistent with the 1999 constitution.



VICE President Goodluck Jonathan (right) with the US Deputy Secretary, Homeland Security, Jane Holl Lute, during her meeting with the vice president in Abuja yesterday.

Opposition trails police arrests

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

THE police in Nasarawa State have arrested nine persons in connection with the Christmas day gunfight in Agwatashi district of Obi Local Government, triggering a protest from interest groups in the ongoing tussle over the district stool. Youths on Christmas day at the village square engaged in a clash that included the use of fire arms.

One of them, Yowuso Ayaitun, was shot dead in the process and another seriously injured.

The police arrested one Sarki Abubakar Apeshi who allegedly opened fire on the village square and eight others who are said to be connected to the chieftaincy tussle still at a Lafia High Court.

They are Paul Madaki, Okina Osamanyi, Osuza Osamanyi Osude, Daniel Agyeno,

Joshua Agyeno, Ayuba Agyeno, Ali Edo and Tanko Abubakar.

Our correspondent learnt that arrests were still ongoing, but counsel to one of the parties in the Agwatashi stool legal tussle, Barrister Boniface Ekeke, said the police arrest was likely to affect the outcome of the case.

"The police are just trying to link the violence with the chieftaincy issue, but there is no connection.

They have arrested the suspect and have also arrested some of my clients", he said.

He appealed to the police to separate the violence from the chieftaincy tussle.

The Police Commissioner Shehu Babalola while speaking with Daily Trust yesterday said "We are investigating, they will speak.

If the people arrested did not have anything to do with the violence, they will say so".

Jang tasks Armed Forces on support for civil authorities

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

GOVERNOR of Plateau State Jonah David Jang has called on the Nigerian Armed Forces to support civil authorities in the country. Jang made the call at the 2010 Armed Forces remembrance church service held at the Maranatha Covenant Church in Jos, a statement by the Director of Press and Public Affairs James Mannok said.

"The military is noble and offic-

ers and men are expected to bear true allegiance to the oath taken to serve and defend the nation", he said.

Governor Jang who commended members of the Armed Forces, especially those who fought and died to keep the nation united urged Nigerians to always think positively. He appealed to Nigerians to pray for the quick recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, saying no nation could survive

without a leader.

The Bishop of Maranatha Covenant Church Jonas Katung who took his reading from the book of Genesis said man's selfishness, pride and lust were mainly responsible for wars and conflicts in the world, adding that soldiers who fought and died for the country must be honoured.

He prayed God to give the people the understanding of true unity to avoid wars and conflicts.

Armed Forces Remembrance Day: Kogi launches emblem

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THIS year's Armed Forces remembrance day celebration has commenced in Lokoja the Kogi State capital with the launch of the emblem. Governor Ibrahim Idris who launched the emblem with N1million yesterday appealed to Nigerians to be generous in honour of the country's fallen heroes.

Idris urged those who made pledges to redeem them so that the money could be used to help the families of the deceased.

"We are grateful to the heroes not only for exhibiting the spirit of patriotism and love for their fatherland, but also for their immeasurable contributions to the survival and security of our beloved country", he said. The governor also noted that his

administration had already created an empowerment scheme for the widows.

"There is already a scheme in the Ministry of Women Affairs that takes care of widows of the departed heroes and they are free to go there", he said.

He urged ex-service men in the state to utilise the resources at their disposal judiciously.

LGAs can't contest census results - NPC

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

THE National Population Commission (NPC) yesterday told the Census Tribunal sitting in Abuja that the 31 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kano State challenging the 2006 census results in their areas by the commission have no right to do so because they are neither residents nor indigenes of the local government areas.

NPC's counsel Mr. Ighodalo Imadegbello (SAN) told the three-member panel of Justices of the Tribunal that they lack the jurisdiction to entertain the complaints brought before them by the local government areas. He said the complaints brought before the tribunal by the local government areas was not in conformity with the National Population Commission Act of 2004.

He added that "Only indigenes or residents of local government areas who are natural persons can institute a complaint challenging census results of those local government areas. The particular mention of natural persons in the National Population Commission Act excludes any interpretation that brings in artificial person like the local government area."

Imadegbello said the Commission's objection to the complainants' complaints before the Tribunal is not procedural but borders on substantive jurisdiction and urged the Tribunal to strike out the complainants' petition.

Counsel to the local government areas and the Director, Civil Litigation of the Kano State Ministry of Justice, Muktar Sani Daneji, however told the tribunal that: "All what they want is for the Tribunal to order for a re-count of the particular local government areas of the state, adding that some households were not counted during the census exercise conducted by the NPC."

He dismissed the objection that Tribunal lacked the jurisdiction to hear and determine the complaints brought before it by the 31 local government areas of Kano state challenging the census results of the 2006. The Tribunal adjourned further hearing to March 24.

Terrorism: U.S. security chief in Nigeria

By Aisha Umar

DEPUTY Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Jane Holl Lute's visit to Nigeria is to give effect to President Obama's vow to fight against terrorism after Christmas attempted bomb by Faruk Mutallab.

Lute was scheduled to visit the foreign ministry yesterday with U.S ambassador, Robin Renee Sanders and also meet the press, but few minutes to the event, the press was told that he would now visit on the state house and meet with the vice president.

A statement from U.S embassy stated that "the visit of the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security is to foster, as President Obama has said, a global response to terrorist threats. We hope that Nigeria will be a partner with us in this important effort to combat global extremism. In today's world, it is essential that all of us are aware of and acknowledge that no country is immune from external or internal extremism or the resulting spectre of terrorism."

NANS urges US to review list of terrorist countries

By Atika Balal

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has called on the United States to review its list of terrorist countries which has Nigeria on it.

Opposing Nigeria's inclusion during a peaceful rally yesterday in Abuja, NANS President Jude Imagwe said the association dissociated itself from the alleged attempted bomb attack by Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab and strongly condemns terrorism.

Speaking on President Yar'adua's health and absence since November 2009, the association advised that constitutional procedures should be followed while addressing the issue.

Govs protest US action against Nigeria

By Muideen Olaniyi

GOVERNORS of the 36 states of the Federation yesterday protested the designation of Nigeria by the United States government as a 'country of interest' after the botched attempt to

blow up US bound aircraft by a Nigerian, Farouk Umar Abdul-Mutallab last month.

Chairman of Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) and Governor of Kwara State, Bukola Saraki, who spoke on the position of the governors, denounced all acts of terrorism, saying Nigeria

never condoned any act of terrorism.

Saraki, who condemned the US action, said it was uncharitable and unfair to hold the whole country accountable for the irresponsible behaviour of one clearly troubled and misguided person.



FROM left: Chief Olu Otunla, Dr. Frederick Fasheun, leader, Odua Peoples Congress (OPC) and Bishop Bolanle Gbonigbo, leader, Yoruba Parapo at a Yoruba unity meeting in Ibadan yesterday.

Immigration bans officers from using cell phones on duty

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) said it has banned its officers on duty from using cell phones to enable them concentrate fully.

Comptroller General of NIS Mr. Chukwurah Udeh made this known in Abuja while addressing Deputy Comptrollers General, Zonal Coordinators, State Comptrollers and heads of Passport Offices across the country.

He said "the work needs total concentration and to avoid any distraction. It is difficult entering data and at the same time answering your cell phone unless on emergency situations."

The CG also directed the Comptrollers to ensure thorough search of persons and their travel documents at the airports and land borders.

"Passengers must provide their full residential addresses on

the embarkation or disembarkation forms they submit at immigration control on departure or arrival respectively. Any security lapse could have far-reaching implications to the security of the country," he said.

Zonal Coordinators were also mandated to profile officers serving at the Passport Offices, International Airports and Expatriate Residence Permits sections to screen out those that have spent more than three years at their posts or are known to have committed misdemeanor.

Udeh also flagged-off the distribution of Direct Data Capture Machines, Biometric Card Production Machines and their consumables as well as operational vehicles to the Zones and Commands for the forth-coming registration of Africans in Nigeria, assuring that the Service would provide all the necessary equipments to the Commands to enable them perform their duties effectively.

Commission blames AGF for archaic laws

By Boco Edet

NIGERIAN Law Reform Commission (NLRC) has attributed its inability to get legislations enacted on the failure of the Attorney General of the Federation to present such proposals before the National Council of Ministers and National Assembly.

The Act establishing the Commission provides that law reform proposals must be forwarded to the Minister of Justice for onward passage to the law making body, a requirement the Chairman Justice Umaru Kalgo described as "discouraging."

Kalgo who spoke at a National Workshop on Law Development to mark the 30th anniversary of the Commission yesterday urged the Minister of Justice Michael Aondoakaa to "look

closely into this and if possible call for the amendment of the Act to improve the situation."

He said the continued non-implementation of the proposals submitted may discourage the Commission from carrying out its duties effectively.

The Chairman noted another constraint of the Commission as insufficiency of funds to execute most of its programmes, adding that "for many consecutive years, the Commission was unable to enjoy its full approved capital budget, because the funds were partly released or not released at all."

Retired Chief Justice of Nigeria Muhammad Uwais who attended the event said Nigeria's laws were archaic and there was a need to modernise them.

Aliyu cautions politicians, traditional rulers on 2011 election

From Ayegba Israel Ebtje, Minna

NIGER State Governor Babangida Aliyu yesterday cautioned politicians and traditional leaders not to

interfere with the 2010 elections. This was contained in a statement signed by the state Director General Media and Publicity Alhaji Bala Abdulkadir.

The governor urged traditional leaders to be fathers to politicians in their domain and not act as partisan politicians.

According to the statement,

Aliyu said he did not intend to anoint anyone for the 2011 elections and urged the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to ensure a level playing field for all those interested

in seeking elective positions in the state. He said unless a level playing field was maintained in the election process, there won't be balance in the system.

Four Kidnappers arraigned in Kaduna

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

FOUR people alleged to have kidnapped the wife of the General Manager, Hospital Services of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Mrs. Adeola Bako and two-year old Zainab Murtala, were yesterday arraigned at the Chief Magistrate's Court in Kaduna.

They were arraigned despite the ongoing strike by the judiciary workers. A senior employee of the state Ministry of Justice said their arraignment became necessary because of the gravity of their offences.

The suspects were arraigned on a four count charge of criminal conspiracy, abduction, kidnaping and abetting kidnap by operatives of the State Security Service (SSS). The accused persons who were brought into the premises of the Chief Magistrate's Court, Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Kaduna in a light blue Peugeot Expert vehicle with registration No. AH 655 TRK pleaded not guilty to the charges. They were ushered into the office of the Chief Magistrate, Nasir Idris, where the charges were read to them and later ordered to be remanded in prison custody. The Kaduna State Deputy Director, Public Prosecution Dari Bayero said the informal arraignment became imperative notwithstanding the on-going strike by the judiciary workers because of the constitutional provision that an accused person should be charged to a court of law within 24 hours after his arrest.

Ohakim mourns ex-commissioner, journalist

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

GOVERNOR Ikedi Ohakim of Imo State has expressed shock over the deaths of a former Commissioner for Culture and Tourism in the state Barr. Innocent Okpara and his sister, Eugenia Okpara, who until her death was the Imo State correspondent of the Source Magazine. In a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Henry Ekpe, Ohakim described the incident as a tragedy to the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Nigerian Union of Journalists Onuimo Local Government Area and Imo State in general. He said Barr. Okpara was a gentleman who discharged his duties diligently while he served Imo State as commissioner.



FROM LEFT: Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) National Vice President Zone H, Mr. Gbenga Onoyiga, NUJ President Muhammad Garba, National Secretary, Shuaibu Leman and National Internal Auditor Mustapha Lamidi, at a news conference on the state of the nation in Abuja yesterday.

NUJ, RATTAWU to push for harmonised salaries

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and its counterpart, the Radio, Television and Theatre Arts Workers' Union (RATTAWU) say they are ready to begin moves on the harmonization of members' salaries.

President of RATTAWU Comrade Yemisi Bamgbose who spoke in Abeokuta Tuesday said the two bodies had concluded arrangement to begin the struggle. He said they also wanted to ensure that quacks were flushed out of the profession. He maintained

that RATTAWU would soon establish a training institute to regulate practitioners' activities and improve programme contents.

"We met with Federal Government owned media outfits late last year to let them know that we are determined at ensuring an improved welfare package. We have been on this for some time and what we get is promise and assurances which never see the light of day. In the second and last week of December we met with the DGs of both the NTA and FRCN to ask how far they have gone.

"By the end of January or by first, second week of February, we will send a message to show that we mean business. Thank God, we have a vibrant leadership in the NUJ now. As the fourth estate of the realm, you will agree with me that we deserve more than what we are getting now and that is why we are saying enough is enough. We also have responsibilities," he said.

On the outstanding 50 per cent monetization for RATTAWU members, he said the leadership of the union was working on it.

Kano police decorate 21 superintendents

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE Kano State Police Command yesterday decorated 21 officers with the new rank of Superintendent of Police.

While decorating the newly promoted officers, the Police Commissioner Ibrahim Mamman Tsafe charged the officers to double their efforts and remain loyal and dedicated to the force, saying with the elevation, much was expected from them.

"The IGP is challenging you. He will continue to monitor you until he is

satisfied that you are worthy of the new rank," he said.

Tsafe warned that any of them who failed to live up to expectations would have his new rank withdrawn.

"If they remain loyal and dedicated to duty, they can determine when they will hang their next ranks because promotion in the police is now very prompt", he added.

Among the newly decorated officers was a female police officer Jummai Sanda Zakayo. Others decorated are Ibrahim A Kangiwa, Sulieman Aliyu Gusau, Muhammadu Gambo, Abdul-lahi Malá Geidam and Nasiru Ilyasu.

Benue judicial workers continue strike

THE Judicial Staff Union (JUSUN) in Benue have said that the ongoing strike would continue until the state Government redeemed its promise to increase the minimum wage to N18,000.

Commrade Richard Aoo, the Chairman of the union in the state said this in an interview with newsmen in Makurdi.

Aoo however, said that the state government had offered to pay N16,000 as

against the N21,000 recommended for judicial workers by the body of Chief Justices in the country.

He expressed regret that the negotiating committee set up by the government was not leaving up to expectations.

Aoo therefore, called on the state governor to intervene, noting that the committee was not ready to continue with the matter. (NAN)



**FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

FCDA NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, AREA 11 GARKI-ABUJA, NIGERIA. TEL:09-3145095, FAX:3143108

FCDA ANNOUNCEMENT

Decree No. 6 of 1976 establishing both the FCT and the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) charged the Authority with the responsibility of planning, designing and developing the Territory.

In accordance with the decree, the President Alh. Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has approved the reconstitution of a board which shall be responsible for policy formulation for the effective discharge of the Mandate of the Authority.

The underlisted persons who make up the new board are therefore by this notice expected to assemble in the office of the Honourable Minister of FCT, Senator Adamu Aliero on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 10.00am

prompt for their inauguration.

The members are:-

1. Rabiou Suleiman Bichi
2. Chief Yunana Iliya
3. Chief Chidi Onyemechukwu
4. Saliu Ayanleye
5. Engr. N. Wills
6. Babayo Ibrahim
7. Hajia Ramatu Lawal
8. Senator Paul Wampana

Members are hereby informed to make their travel arrangement to Abuja, but that accommodation will be reserved for them at the NICON HILTON HOTEL ABUJA from Monday 18th January, 2010 to Wednesday 20th January, 2010.

**Engr. M.S. Alhassan, MFR, FNSE
Executive Secretary, FCDA.**

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com

Yar'adua speaks on BBC today -VP: 'I spoke to him'



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

WE shall be waiting to hear from the president, but I think if anyone is to be blamed for the rumors, it is Yar'adua himself and not anyone else. You can't leave a country of 150 million people in the dark, especially as they voted for you. He should have come out to address the nation a long time ago from his hospital bed even if only to confirm that he is alive. Fidel Castro did it so it's not new. I personally believe he is dead until otherwise proven, because no matter how sick I am, once I hear people say I'm dead I will come out even if on a wheelchair to counter their claims, but like I said, we shall be waiting for him on the BBC.

Sharimi

Sacked bank CEO loses 7 more homes

ACTUALLY I don't understand the court. How can somebody who traded the life of people for his own personal benefit and who is now a fugitive be allowed N1.4m monthly for up keep? They just want him to keep running. Everything of his should be seized and, so that he can be put under pressure to come and defend what he said his salary and allowances are. I used to think the private sector is protected from corruption. These are the same people that will give financial support to Churches, Mosques, traditional rulers etc and are celebrated with titles and honors.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com



EFCC boss Farida Waziri

sharpsharpiro@yahoo.com

Thank God Mr President is "alive", but we need to see him physically before we can accept all the excuses from the presidency.

Mofeola Ayinde
mofeayinde@gmail.com

The president reportedly had a telephone interview with the BBC yesterday. So how do we know that the person at the end of the line was indeed Umaru Yar'adua? What can be so difficult for the president that he can't hold a live recording or interview with Nigerian journalists?

Kalim
islamisbliss@yahoo.co.uk

Every Nigerian wishes Yar'adua well. Please, as a God-fearing president, let him talk to Nigerians. He is not the president of his cabinet but the president of 150 million Nigerians. May Almighty Allah save us, and give him quick recovery.

Segun
oos151264@gmail.com

Allah has already opened the door of change to Nigerians. Thus, whether Yar'adua is dead or alive this legacy which he has

laid will never be in vain.

Ibrahim J
ilawal010@gmail.com

It is very unfortunate that the President had to wait until he was pushed to the wall to speak to a BBC Hausa correspondent (that is if that information is true). In any case, why can't he speak through Radio Nigeria or NTA? Sometimes I just don't understand Nigerians. We create doubts and confusion in the system. In any case the bone of contention is not whether he is alive or not. What is so difficult in him handing power to the vice president pending when he recovers and resumes office? That will douse all the tension in the country.

Samuel Jurbe Deshi
samjurbe@yahoo.com

He has already spoken this morning and put to shame the claim that he is dead. May Allah grant him further recovery to continue with his work.

Na-Allah
rukyme@yahoo.com

Why BBC? What is wrong with NTA, AIT, Radio Nigeria, Channels, etc. Why BBC?

James

fwangan2005@yahoo.com

It's quite unfortunate that as mortal as we all are, some people would still wish death upon others forgetting that they themselves have an appointed time. I hope the trials the president is going through would be a lesson not only to our leaders but also the followers. Nigerians should be patriotic. Let us pray not only for the president but for the country, ourselves, family and friends.

Abdulkadir Ali Bage
alizaki001@yahoo.com

Thanks be to Allah, Mr. President is alive. We hope this information is true and that our leaders are not lying. Long-live Mr. President, long-live Nigeria.

Baban
yahmuf@yahoo.com

The Telephone interview granted by Mr. President to BBC/VOA has successfully disclosed what most Nigerians feared. From his voice you can tell that Mr. President is critically ill and is just been forced to speak. May Allah in his infinite mercy grant him Speedy recovery.

Attahir Abubakar
ahkyauta@gmail.com

Obasanjo faults FG on terror listing

THIS highlights the need for power to be handed to the Vice President (temporarily). If that had been done, I believe he would have gotten in touch directly with the US president, and they would have discussed. That would have staved off the American reaction.

Nnamdi Nwachuku
prettydinxven@yahoo.com

With due respect to the respected statesman, Chief Obasanjo, I agree that we should embark on genuine review of our security system and efforts to curb excesses in governance. Our electoral system is yet to receive clear guidance from our leaders. On the other hand, US Govern-

ment should exercise more restraint and try to understand current efforts made to stem religious extremism/intolerance. The solution to the present predicament is genuine engagement between nations as well mutual respect for our peoples. UK and Ghana, where Umar spent more time before embarking on the mission are not subjected to a similar treatment by US Government.

Ahmad M. Makarfi
makarfi2001@yahoo.com

All these are still allegations. Let the law court prove him guilty.

Segun
oos151264@gmail.com



CHIEF Olusegun Obasanjo

Why today's rally is necessary - SNG

THIS is indeed a great step in the quest to take the nation to greater heights. It is an achievement to have meaningful and noticeable elders cut across the country who have the interest of the nation at heart rise up to this occasion. Gone are the days when the youth are considered as those who engage in rallies, demonstrations and marches. This

indicates that people, both old and young are becoming aware of the nation's state. I therefore pray that God will keep touching the hearts of our elders and furnish their hearts with goodwill and ideas that will be of benefit to the country.

The basic truth is that, whatever happens to this great country, no matter your status, influ-

ence, level of education, talent, age, sex, religion, it will affect every soul. Therefore, let us embrace ourselves in good spirit and stop the discrimination, bias and see ourselves as one entity and brothers and sisters of one another. God bless Nigeria.

Hadiza Sani Umar
hadizaus@yahoo.com



GOV Babatunde Fashola

Stay back home and fix our economy - Fashola

YES Fashola, as long as other Nigerian leaders will have the same conviction as you, I believe that by now our country will be among the best in terms of economic and social development. However, they prefer travelling abroad.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

This is such a beautiful idea. If Nigerians stop flying abroad their economies will suffer significantly.

Lawan Adam
xx4lawal@yahoo.com

We have bright people in Nigeria. If the government would support them, we have everything it takes to be like China or Japan. We will also need to tackle corruption effectively and change our attitude towards ourselves and our neighbors and get rid of greed and excessive hatred for one another.

Ibraheem
bambasr@yahoo.com

On conspiracism, Yar'adua and other not-so-funny claims

MALLAM Sanusi, you really said the truth. We always run away from what is reality and blame somebody for our failure. I always ask, of what threat is an uneducated poverty stricken population to America? The Osama bin Ladens, the Ayman Zawahiris and the Al Zarqawis of this world are those who constitute real threats to America. And the question is do we really have their types among our teeming youths in our own part of the country? I say NO!

Sunusi Musa
iyando22@yahoo.com



By Tunde Asaju

The privilege of a legislator

It is a new year and while people are making resolutions, I think I should be on my first few millions and preferably not in Naira since the Naira may not always stand against the unpredictable laws of economic gravity. I have carried out my feasibility studies as to the best way to make money. I have no medical license; otherwise, setting up a baby factory is not a bad idea especially if you believe that there is no life after this life. But since I am hoping to grab one of those gold-plated heavenly mansions, impregnating girls and rearing them like Christmas chickens for sale to the highest bidder is not my style of making money. So, I quickly knocked that out.

My brain worked very quickly and I found out that being a minister is a lucrative job. Get nominated, take a bow and go and spend as much as your ministry gets appropriated. Simple job that one and unaccountable to none, not even the President if you ask me. But frankly, not all ministries are lucrative. And if you end up as a minister of state, you are screwed. Apart from that, you may not be lucky enough to be assigned the

Most bankers end up rich not necessarily on their salaries and allowances

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and get your hands on that N2.7 billion travelling allowance while your embassy staffs are unpaid. Besides, I don't envy Ojo Maduekwe. Planes are good to look at on the tarmac, flying in them in those 'no parking' zones in the stratosphere is not my pot of pepper-soup. Besides, you must naturally be a political turncoat to end up as a minister if you come from an educationally advantaged state like mine.

The road to being a Dangote, Otedola or a Jimoh Ibrahim is a long one to travel. It may take too much time and it's better to get rich while you are young, even though someone whispered that age is in the mind. Okay. Most bankers end up rich not necessarily on their salaries and allowances. Access to other people's wealth is a source of pride isn't it? But first you have to earn the trust of greedy shareholders. Hoping to make money as an accountant or a teller is a waste of life. You are bound to see the money go into other people's pockets with only a fraction going into yours. With Sanusi Lamido breathing down your neck and Farida Waziri waiting to pounce on

you, being a bank chief is no longer piece of cake. Surely the road to good wealth is usually not tarred.

But I don't give up easily when an idea crosses my oblong head. I know that time and age is not on my side. Conscious that my children are growing like fertilised crops on a riverbank and that they must not mature to the start realisation that Daddy is a mere paper tiger unable to pay their school fees or his house rent and to give them all those beautiful things that life guarantees such as tertiary education in Harvard and religious

It confers on you the opportunity to slap your colleague and insult anybody else that appears before you

upbringing in Israel not to talk of summer trips to Disneyland. I must make it quickly.

So, here comes the perfect idea and it is very difficult to write about it because try as I could, I did not succeed in patenting it. This means that some of you might just steal the idea, but I must share it. It is to become a legislative member of the National Assembly. Ever since Ken Nnamani made the mistake of appointing me as his Chief Press Secretary, I have never stopped imagining the easy life of the distinguished honourables.

They hardly win elections but that is the easiest question they ask their hapless advisers - have you ever won an election? They do not have to attend sessions but will always get paid. In fact, statistics show that Nigeria spends N30 million monthly on each ordinary members of the House of Representatives and N50 million monthly on every non-ranking senator. The presiding officers get more. I do not know of any laziness anywhere on earth that pays that kind of money. It confers on you the opportunity to slap your colleague and insult anybody else that appears before you. If only Akingbola had known, he would not have bothered running to London and getting his assets frozen in the process.

The privilege of being a legislator is that no matter how rough your past is, you are addressed either as distinguished or honourable. You do not set goals and achieve none. In fact in the last two years, Nigerian legislators have done absolutely nothing other than pass the yearly appropriation bill. No other law has caught their interest and come 2011, they want automatic tickets and they will get it, because they always get what they want.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



By Bankole Olubamise

Before this house falls (I)

Karl Maier's seminal book on Nigeria - *This House Has Fallen* (Public Affairs 2000), Robert Kaplan's "The Coming Anarchy" - *The Atlantic Monthly* - Feb 1994; and the recent presentation by Ambassador Princeton Lyman at the Brown University Colloquia on Chinua Achebe (2009), especially the statement that - "Nigeria is fast becoming irrelevant to the world" - which more or less sums up the entire presentation, are three external commentaries on Nigeria that we must all take to mind when considering the current state of the Nigerian nation. We have been praying for many things! However, we have to face reality and do the right things for our prayers to be meaningful.

Since the dawn of democracy in 1999, the system has become progressively confusing with no clear VISION for the Nation. The 'largest Political party' in Africa' (sic) - am wondering where they kept the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa - has failed terribly both to institute internal democracy within its own ranks nor encourage the practice of true democracy at different levels of governance in Nigeria under its control. It has been 10 years of pain, tears and sorrow!

Its against this background that in late November the country was thrown into another constitutional crisis by the PDP-led federal government and in particular the party leader and President of the Country, Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua. The President who is known to have health challenges

This is not even considering the fact that we hardly attend UN periodical meetings with a strategic impact.

was evacuated to a Saudi Arabian hospital with inflammation of the heart and has only recently been heard from through a very brief radio interview. Previously, we had only learnt from people who are neither his Press Secretary nor Confidential Secretary - two people who should be by his side wherever he might be.

Note, wherever the US President is, whether on holiday or not, there is always a team of his assistants and approved journalists just next door, so that they can brief the American nation where and what their first citizen is up to!

The main constitutional issue are whether the President wrote the National Assembly notifying them of his absence from the country and thereby nominating his Vice President as expected by good practice and constitutionally as Acting President. Unfortunately, he did not do either of the above and so the nation has been on autopilot since his medical evacuation. The focus of this discourse is how this will impact on global perception of Nigeria's relevance, national development with trust in leadership and constitutional rule of law.

International relevance: Nigeria has

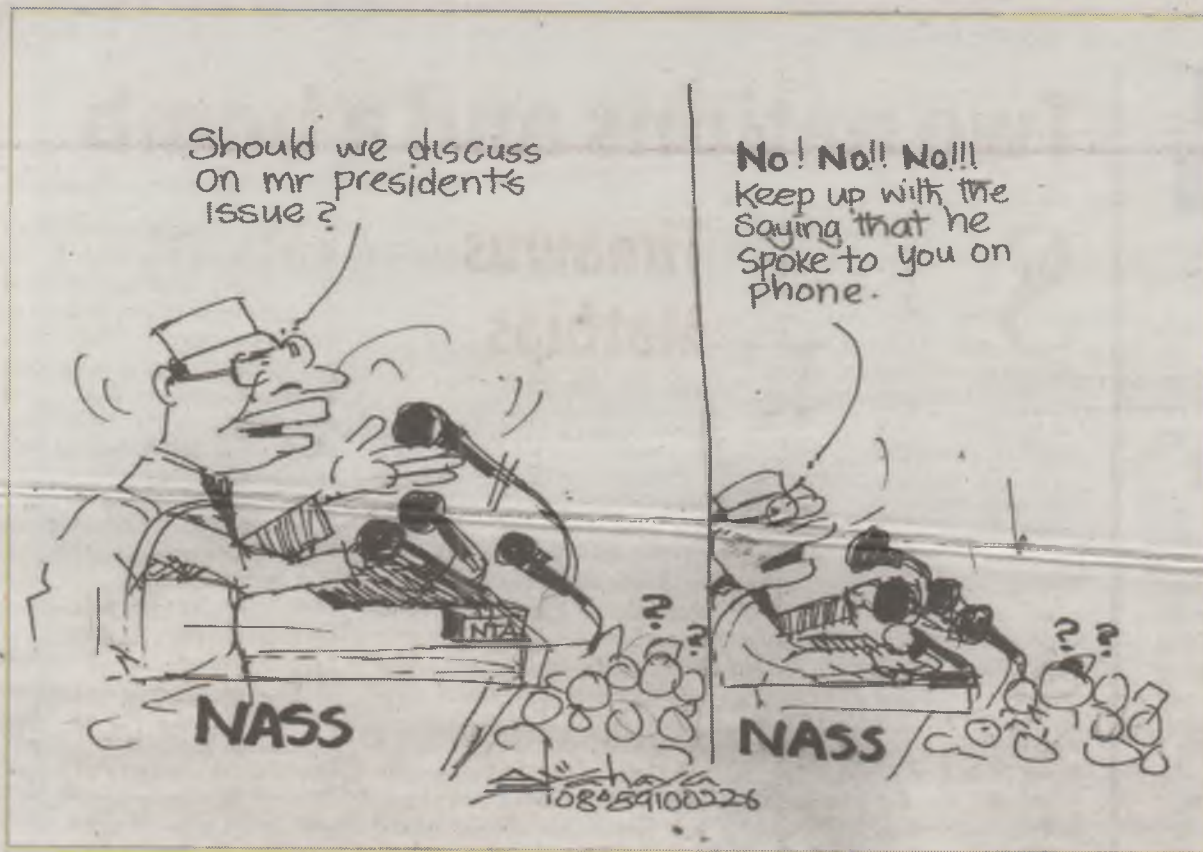
done a lot in West Africa and even in sub-Saharan Africa to rightfully claim a central seat when global issues are being discussed. A study of the first 40 years of our development will confirm this. However, we have not and continue to fail to develop a coherent Global Policy Strategy (GPS), which should entrench Nigeria's place in the global space. With the internal collapse of democratic values and the perception that there is actually NO ONE IN CHARGE in Nigeria, it has become easy for Nigeria's place in the global community of nations to be overtaken politically by South Africa, Egypt and Ghana, economically (oil as index) by Angola, strategically by Libya, Rwanda, Senegal and even in sports by Cote D'Ivoire among others.

Therefore internationally, Nigeria is fast become one of the 2nd eleven of African powers, and we would be deluding ourselves if we think this is not the case as at today. Can anyone in government please tell me which Nigerian position paper was adopted as the African Position (even West African Position!) in all the global Summits of the last decade - WCAR-2001, WSSD -2003, WSIS-2005, WTO- 2007, and recently the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit-2009? The ANSWER IS NONE! Participation and contributions to these global meetings are measures of global/regional relevance. We therefore totally agree with Ambassador Lyman, that Nigeria is fast losing her relevance! Even with our immediate neighbours, we have lost out severally! Most Nigerians drive second-hand imported cars which largely come through the ports of Benin Republic; Bakassi was lost to Cameroun; Momoudou Tanja of Niger Republic has turned his country into a football field with Nigeria clapping for him; Libya deports our citizens at the slightest provocation.

This is not even considering the fact that we hardly attend UN periodical meetings with a strategic impact. Something is truly wrong somewhere. Nigeria must WAKE UP, if she still wants to be relevant in the next 10 years in Global and African Affairs. If you have been to many West African countries in the last few years as I have done in my line of work, you will realize Nigeria is fast become a 'once upon a time story'. Our situation is not helped by the collective failures of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) and National Assembly Committees on Foreign Affairs to articulate a clear Foreign Policy and engagement Strategy for the 21st Century. I am amazed that after the Ghanaian Presidential elections, the newly elected President did not visit the Nigerian President, but a Nigeria marabout, not to mention the monumental insult of US President Barack Obama visiting emergent Ghana rather than crippled Nigeria! That's how low we have come and even after all these; there has been no strategic response! Its still business as usual, with that worn-out refrain we are 'Giant of Africa' crap!

To be concluded.

Olubamise is the Executive Director, Development Information Network, Murtala Muhammed Way, Yaba, Lagos (bolubamise@yahoo.com)



By Yusuf Mu'azu

Amadu Ali, not a poor choice for PPPRA chair

The attention of the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) has been drawn to an Opinion article entitled, "Ahmadu Ali: Another Poor Choice," written by one Ademola Adesola, which was published on page 20 of Monday, January 2, 2010 edition of The Nation newspapers. In the said publication, the writer questioned the suitability of a number of federal government appointees and while making uncomplimentary comments on them, made reference to the newly appointed Chairman of the Governing Board of the PPPRA, Dr Amadu A. Ali, whose appointment the writer described as a "misnomer".

The writer further alluded to, "an Agency like the PPPRA with its immanent woes does require a man of sincerity, maturity and one who can genuinely feel the pulse of the people. It needs a man who will not collude with painfully insular oil marketers to further inflict untold hardship on the Nigerian populace..."

The PPPRA wishes to unequivocally state that the opinion was suffused with misrepresentations, half-truths, outright falsehood and a deliberate attempt to denigrate the integrity of Senator Ali, who has answered the call to duty at critical times in the nation's history, and have served and continued to serve this country with distinction. He had served as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in three sessions of the National Assembly - 1979; 1983; 1991. He was awarded the national honours of the Commander of the Order of the Niger in 1979 and Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger in 2006 for his exemplary services to Nigeria.

It is patently false and unbecoming of such an opinion writer to represent falsehood as "received wisdom" as that was what he attempted to achieve by claiming that the appointment of Dr Ali as the PPPRA Board Chairman was a "misnomer" and "a blind choice." On the contrary, Senator Ali, who was deemed fit and proper by Mr President as the appointing authority, was eminently qualified for the appointment, and meets the requirement enshrined in Section 2 (3) of the Act establishing the PPPRA, which provides that, "the Chairman and other members of the Board shall be persons of proven integrity who possesses the requisite experience." And talking about experience, the writer chose to be ignorant of the fact that Senator Ali was the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Petroleum and Energy during the First National Assembly, which lasted 1979 to 1983.

Secondly, it is unpardonable falsehood by the writer to assert that Dr Ali's past record does not recommend him as a man capable of providing sound leadership. Dr Ali's outstanding leadership records date back to his University days where he was at various time a Student Union Leader. His pioneering efforts as the First Director of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were a legion, as Dr Ali saw to the effective take-off of the scheme within the shortest time given to him. In his chosen profession, Dr. Ali rose to the post of colonel and chief consultant physician in the Nigerian Army, before retiring meritoriously. Dr Ali is not only a graduate of Medicine (MB.BS) from University College, Ibadan; he did his postgraduate education in Edinburgh University, Scotland, and later was appointed Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (FRCP).

On the issue of appropriate fuel pricing, which the writer referred to as "incessant and irksome hike in the pump prices of petroleum products," it must be stated that the question of subsidy demands an intelligent appreciation, which the writer did not exhibit in his piece. While this may not be the platform to extensively dwell on desirability or otherwise of subsidy removal, it bears repetition to reiterate that until the deregulation is total, we are all consumed by the fiction of a petroleum products prices regime that is regrettably artificial.

The accusation of likely collusion of the PPPRA leadership with petroleum marketers to inflict untold hardship on Nigerians by way of fuel price hikes is unfortunate to say the least. We challenge the writer to produce evidence and cite any incidence of such connivance between the PPPRA and the marketers if any. The PPPRA, it must be told, rather than inflicting pains on Nigerians, has in the last years brought to bear on the downstream oil sector a number of achievements some of which were: products availability nationwide; massive investments in downstream logistic facilities; greater participation by other Stakeholders in products procurement, storage and distribution; creation of a level playing field; employment generation; as well as effective exercise of mediatory role among stakeholders for serenity in the industry. These laudable achievements, the PPPRA will continue to sustain and even surpass under the leadership of Dr Ali.

Yusuf Mu'azu is Assistant Chief Public Affairs Officer, PPPRA, Abuja.

Your Letters

Yar'adua's health: Why put the public in the dark?

Since his departure to Saudi Arabia on November 23 2009 to treat an ailment, Nigerians have been kept in the dark about his condition. People in the corridors of power, particularly those close to the president, have taken Nigerians for granted. Otherwise, why the silence regarding this sensitive issue? The political culture is such that not many Nigerians protested when Yar'adua was presented by the PDP to stand for election,

even though some thought there was some evil machination on the part of then-outgoing president, Olusegun Obasanjo, namely to punish Nigerians for defeating his third term agenda on the floor of the National Assembly.

The power vacuum created as a result of the long absence of Mr. President does not augur well for Nigeria, because as at now the country is neither being run by a substantive president nor by an acting one, which renders the constitution somewhat impotent, and been breached with impunity.

Since his hospitalization, Nigerians from all walks of life are expressing their constitutionally guaranteed opinion but unfortunately they are being castigated by

the powers that be at Aso Rock. Why the issue is being hush-hushed is it because they don't have the right to be informed about it, governmental activities are paralyzed due to the fact that the president is the nation and the nation is Mr. President. The clique that surrounds Mr. President and which happens to arrogate to itself the knowledge of the power game should immediately have a rethink, because even people at the lowest level of the society are worried and concerned about the condition of Mr. President, as we can discern from their side talks when they converge at social gatherings.

Abbas Yushau Yusuf, Nasarawa, Kano.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Conspiracy theory

THINK again. It is a reality, my compatriots. It is online with the Protocol of the Elders of Zion. By way of deception, they do their war. Tony Blair's war inquiry on Iraq is food for thought.

UBALE, Bompai, Kano, 08033246464.

Yar'adua!

THANK God he has spoken and this should calm nerves. More importantly, people should now leave him alone to enable fast recovery.

AISHA Abdulrahman, 08078100209.

I cried for him

I was moved to tears of joy on hearing President Yar'adua's voice on BBC. I wonder what next for his detractors. What more do they want? May he recover quickly; we miss him.

AL-AMIN, Tsafe, Zamfara, 08039171085.

I was thrilled

GLAD be to the almighty, having confirmed the real condition of President Yar'adua's health status. Hope this would mark the end of the argument about his health condition. I wish Mr President quick recovery.

HARUN A. Imam, Malali, Kaduna, 08038226335.

N7.6bn for the VP's house

AT a time when there's no development in any sector in Nigeria, it would be insanity for the government to even contemplate, let alone execute, such a meaningless project while the VP's tenure has almost expired. This shows who they serve: their selfish interests, not Nigerians!

ADAM Muhammad, 08025552248.

Is this a joke?

IWU plots to become governor of Imo State. Which Iwu? M. Baba. 08098184877.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,
Utako District, Abuja
09-6726241, 6715364

The scandal of Enugu "baby farm"

Recently, the British broadcaster, BBC, reported on the case of another Enugu-based medical doctor who allegedly lured teenagers between the ages of twelve and 17 into his compound. The report alleged that the doctor's motive for doing so was to impregnate the girls, watch over their pregnancy period and sell the new babies on delivery to his clients, after paying the girls for their effort.

This is the second such case discovered in Enugu within two years. In 2008, another man was discovered tending a "baby farm" and selling the "products" after delivery. He was arrested by officers of the National Civil Defence Corps following a tip-off. The accused, said to be medical doctor, had his case investigated, and granted bail by the courts, only to return to his "business".

While the public is yet to get a clear picture of those who benefit from these obviously criminal transactions, observers interviewed in the course of the investigation claimed that this is a multi-million naira enterprise that is patronised particularly by barren women who can afford to pay to get a baby, and by merchants who use human parts in rituals.

The Enugu State government has once vowed to deal with culprits, but this latest discovery has posed more questions about the ability and willingness of the authorities to track down all the people involved and bringing them to justice. One of the pertinent questions is that with two farms discovered in as many years, how many more of such farms exist in Enugu and elsewhere? Another question is whether there is a unit of the Federal Ministry of Health or the Nigerian Medical Association that investigates what goes on in the baby farms masquerading as private hospitals in parts of the country? The third issue is the level of complicity between the doctors, the surrogate-mother victims, probably hapless and poor, and therefore unable to resist simple pressure; and their parents or guardians, who cannot claim ignorance of this illicit business.

Having made these observations, it is also clear that this criminal business would not be thriving if there were no demand for its "products". It is certain that for these businesses to even exist and thrive there is must be willing buyers. The question is: who buys these babies and what do they use them for? This means that the investigation of these baby factories should go beyond just closing down the clinics and prosecuting the proprietors and their workers.

As with the Otokoto saga of the mid-1990s in the same region, this illicit business would not stop until a thorough investigation is made of those who have benefited from these nefarious activities have been identified, named, shamed and properly prosecuted. This should be a clarion call-to-arms to security agencies working in tandem with officials of the relevant ministries including the social welfare section of the state, local and federal governments, to fish out other baby factories not just within the areas but outside it as well.

There have been suggestions that orphanages are also sometimes used as farms where rich individuals buy off children. This too should be investigated and appropriate sanctions applied where people are found to be complicit. If a law against such practices does not exist yet, it is time to enact one. We can borrow a leaf from other societies where similar activities have been discovered and stamped out. Nigeria truly is on the quest for moral re-armament. Parents and guardians have a role to play in ensuring that the lives of innocent children are not ruined by the greedy ones among us.

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Two nations and a bomb

Since my treat, 'A Parent's Anguish', last week, a few reactions through text and email, have really touched me. The correspondence was private but I have taken undue privilege to use the substance in the hope that it would be instructive.

In one comment, the writer said he had fallen out with his father over differences of opinion and had not spoken to the father for over five years. As soon as he read my piece, he bemoaned the anguish his parents must have lived through since he left home "to make it without their help", and called his father, at 5pm, returned home at 7pm and had been catching on their past up to way after 10 am the next day. He can not believe how well the old man had meant for him.

Another said although his father never gave up on him and in fact had bent over backwards to conform to his (the son) excesses, he realised in his own success today "how many bombs" he had set off, very much to the ruin of a proud family name, and disgrace to the old man. He had also called his father to seek forgiveness and new directions for a new life of mutual love and understanding.

The one that touched me the most came from a single parent who after reading the article sought and found her hemp-smoking daughter that she had given up on, with a new commitment to further re-attempt rehabilitation. The woman had raised the girl through top class schools up to university as a single parent, but the young girl got involved with a boyfriend that was a cult king pin in the university, and slid into an alcohol, drugs and sex free fall.

As much as I feel elated that someone read the article and was affected, I have a sense of shame at how the whole saga is playing out and displaying how lowly and immature we are as a people and a nation. From Information Minister Dora Akunyili's rushed statement, every notable politician in the country had ensured that his name was in the papers talking in general emotional terms, all saying that Nigerians are not like the would-be bomber.

All spoke from the assumption that the emotional pleas would make the Americans temper their reactive classification of Nigeria with mercy. How lacking in perception and deadly naive they are in believing that sentimental pleading would affect American thinking and official reaction.

Notice that in America, no one commented on the incident other than take necessary steps. First the airline security made their on board arrest and handed over to the Police who took Farouk the would-be bomber to the hospital and formally perfected his arrest. No emotional outburst of condemnation of Nigerians. The District Attorney made his charges and announced the day the sus-

Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

pect would be arraigned in court.

Notice then that ONLY President Obama spoke and literally narrated to the whole world all the facts of the matter, from the collated briefings of the intelligence community. President Obama took responsibility for the near terror attack, apportioned blame squarely and announced steps that restored American confidence and enabled its citizens to travel the world with assurance of safety. In America, every linesman just did his job quietly, and only the President not even Sec-

When ethnic killings occurred in 1966, a red flag went up. All the military interventions and the stifling of democracy up to 1979 were a set of red flags. With the Maitatsine uprising of 1984 it became apparent that a band of fundamentalists could sack whole cities like Kano and Yola and engage our armed forces for days, more red flags were fixed. When Christians and Moslems engaged each other in fierce conflict and governments were unable to bring any party to book, we got more red flags. The absence of internal democracy in a few of our political parties indicates potential for failure of government and gravitation towards chaos and haven for harbingers of terror. There is also the neglected overpopulation of the *almajirai*, likely terror recruits, under the tutelage

“The happening in the Niger Delta until the amnesty, and the kidnappings of especially foreigners are all act of terror that defined Nigeria's character

retary of State Mrs Clinton spoke. In fact much of the truth about the attempted bombing that Nigerians know today was acquired from the Obama comment.

Here in Nigeria, in the street, where any one could express a warped view, we are not even exactly sure where our President is, as we take on the strongest power in the world through a 23 year old brat with a bomb packed in his diapers! Forget Al Qaeda, the would-be terrorist is a Nigerian. All the while, Nigerian spokesmen merely gaffed with no intelligence briefs at least covering our end to answer obvious questions. Was the young Mutallab recruited and indoctrinated in Nigeria? Was the bomb also put together here? Why did the young lad come to Nigeria to begin his mission journey from Lagos? What did he do in Ghana? Is there evidence of financing in our local banks that should have raised flashes of likely breaches to the EFCC?

Even now that Nigeria has earned classification as a qualified sponsor of terror against the world, our leaders speak in naive terms praising our potential and apologizing for our do-nothingness, and stating no steps to indicate we can improve our situation.

America deals with one act of terror the same way it would deal with ten or a million. The status conferred on Nigeria as sponsor of terror to watch is not only due to the final act of a suspected terrorist, a Nigerian caught in the act on their soil. It was a result of a build up of red flags which indicate the potential direction of a country.

of malamai with questionable backgrounds and agenda. When you now take into account the politicization of Sharia and the upsurge of half baked extremists like Boko Haram and Kala Kato, you can imagine how much red is on the surface of the American security wall map of Nigeria. The happening in the Niger Delta until the amnesty, and the kidnappings of especially foreigners are all act of terror that defined Nigeria's character.

Imagine how this incident has rubbished all the rebranding work of Information Minister Dora Akunyili. The times suggest we act more seriously. As a people, we must endeavour to restore family values. Parents are so committed to business and politics that they think boarding facilities are sufficient for the moulding of the character of children.

Rich parents confront every problem their children have with money, instead of counsel and company of quality time. Like Frank Olize often asked at the opening of his programme, at 9 pm, do parents know where their children are?

Government should confront the issue of religious disharmony and the rise of fundamentalism a factor of the growing trend of the monetization of God by leaders of both religions such that every faith has become its own curse. Unless we do we are like the answer I got when I wrote on my wall in Facebook that I felt "like up the river in a cement boat and without a paddle". "You must be Nigeria", some one commented instantly.

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First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Guest of Honour:

Hajiya Laila Dogonyaro
Former Chairperson, NCWS

Date: Thursday, 21 January, 2010

Venue: Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Time: 10.00 am

Guest Speakers



Ms. Winnie M. Mandela
Anti-Apartheid Fighter and
Member of Parliament



Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed
First Female President of ABU Students' Union
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Senator Kofo Buknor-Akerele
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INTERNATIONAL

UN chief encouraged by Guinea power-sharing offer

UN chief Ban Ki-moon is encouraged by moves toward a possible power-sharing between Guinea's ruling junta and its opposition, his spokesman said.

"The Secretary-General is encouraged by recent political developments in Guinea, particularly the commitment expressed by the interim head of state, General Sekouba Konate, for a return to constitutional order," Martin Nesirky said in a statement.

In a speech last week, Konate invited the opposition to choose the next prime minister ahead of the formation of a transition government, and called on opposition leaders who fled to return, saying he guaranteed their safety.

Ban welcomes "both the invitation extended to the opposition to put forward a consensus prime minister and the guarantees of security given for all Guineans, including the country's political leaders," the statement added.

The UN boss urged Guinea's military junta and government to honor their earlier commitment not to contest the forthcoming elections and urged all political stakeholders to work together to find lasting solutions to the challenges facing the west African country.

Top opposition leader Cellou Dalein Diallo welcomed Konate's "speech of appeasement," saying it paved the way for talks but failed to take account of "the major demands of the opposition."

Konate, who also serves as



UNITED Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

defense minister, took charge after junta leader Captain Moussa

Dadis Camara was shot in the head and seriously wounded on

December 3 by his aide de camp during an altercation. Camara

has since been hospitalized in Morocco.

Mozambique opposition boycotts parliament ceremony

A member of Mozambique's parliament says most of the main opposition party's politicians have boycotted a swearing-in ceremony.

Antonio Timba says he was among 35 Renamo deputies who skipped yesterday's opening of parliament to protest alleged election fraud. Sixteen other oppo-

sition politicians participated. Renamo's leader has called for nationwide protests against last year's election results.

President Armando Guebuza

easily won a second term during the October vote. His Frelimo party, in power since independence from Portugal in 1975, swept parliamentary voting.

The opposition accused the ruling party of stuffing ballot boxes and expelling opposition monitors from polling stations to help it win.

Rwandan panel says army shot down president's jet

A Rwandan government-commissioned inquiry has concluded that soldiers shot down the president's plane on the eve of the 1994 genocide. The panel, which released its findings late yesterday, interviewed hundreds of people who were on duty at the time.

The plane of President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on April 6, 1994. Rwanda recognizes the next day as the

start of the genocide unleashed by Hutu extremists on Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus.

The killings spread across the country and lasted 100 days, until a Tutsi, Paul Kagame, led his rebel army to victory.

Rwanda formed the panel in response to a French judicial investigation into the crash. The plane's crew members were French.

Sudan's Bashir retires as army chief before vote

SUDANESE President Omar Hassan al-Bashir retired as commander-in-chief of the army, state media said yesterday, in what sources said was a procedural move before the first multi-party elections in 24 years.

"President Omar Hassan al-Bashir today issued a decree retiring (himself as) the commander-in-chief of the armed forces," state news agency SUNA said. It mentioned no replacement.

Official nominations for the April elections began yesterday and analysts have said Bashir was trying to distance himself from

his military past before his nomination by the dominant National Congress Party (NCP). "This decree and the timing of it can be read in the context of his nomination expected tomorrow for the presidential elections," one source in the presidency told Reuters.

Another added: "This is only because of the elections -- it is just a procedure." Elections to parliament and state governorships will be held at the same time as the presidential vote.

The deputy head of Sudan's elections commission said there was no requirement in the elec-

tion law for Bashir to resign his military post. Opposition Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi belittled the move: "He has already pretty much delegated this job to his defense minister," he told Reuters. "His people close to him are very much so loyal and so close to him... that he will just appoint one of them as the chief and it won't matter much," added Turabi, who split from Bashir's party in 1999/2000.

The elections precede a referendum in southern Sudan on January 9, 2011 on whether to secede from the north.

International

Work begins on first planned Palestinian city

WORK crews have broken ground on what they hope will be the first modern, planned Palestinian city — a step that officials say will help build an independent state in spite of the current deadlock in the peace process with Israel.

Since last week, machine operators have been hard at work, taking chunks out of a rocky hillside near this West Bank village. If the project goes according to plan, it will provide 40,000 Palestinians with homes in an American-style development.

But complications remain. The \$500 million project hinges

on Israel's approval of a short stretch of road.

"We could build the whole city, but the question is, would people live in a city that doesn't have an access road?" said Bashar Masri, managing director of the company behind the project. "Obviously, the answer is no."

Palestinians say Israel has not responded to their requests about the access road. The Israeli Defense Ministry, which is in charge of the area, did not return calls from The Associated Press about the issue.

Israel's stated policy is to promote economic development in

the West Bank, and construction of the new town would appear to fall within that goal.

But two miles (three kilometers) of the road would have to be built through a part of the West Bank that Israel controls, within view of a Jewish settlement, raising possible complications.

Western-backed Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, an internationally respected economist, has announced plans to build institutions regardless of progress in peace talks, aiming to be ready for statehood in two years.

The new city, known as Rawabi, would be a key part of that plan.

Rawabi, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Jerusalem, is designed to look much like an American suburb.

Standing over a working model in the office of Bayti Real Estate Investment Company in Ramallah, Masri pointed to the city's egg-shaped, hilltop center, saying it will hold office and residential towers, a conference center and hotel, shops, cafes and a movie theater.

The center will be a pedestrian zone with an underground

car park, he said.

Cities like Ramallah and Nablus have sprawled into the West Bank countryside over the last century, leaving them with insufficient roads, infrastructure and parking space, producing daily traffic jams that snarl their centres.

In Rawabi, by contrast, a series of roads will loop down the hillside, lined with residential buildings connected by footpaths, designed for the Palestinian middle class, Masri said.

Residents will have ample parking and access to parks, schools, mosques and a church.

Bomb kills Iran nuclear physicist tied to Mousavi



ASSASSINATED Iranian university lecturer and nuclear scientist Massoud Ali Mohammadi.

A nuclear physics professor who publicly backed Iranian opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi in the disputed June presidential election was killed yesterday when a remote-controlled bomb rigged to a motorcycle blew up outside his home.

State media identified the victim as Masoud Ali Mohammadi, 50, a professor at Tehran Univer-

sity, which has been at the center of recent protests by student opposition supporters.

Before the election, pro-reform Web sites published Ali Mohammadi's name among a list of 240 Tehran University teachers who supported Mousavi.

The government blamed the bombing on an armed Iranian opposition group that it said oper-

ated under the direction of Israel and the U.S. Iran often accuses both countries of meddling in its affairs — both when it comes to postelection unrest and its nuclear program. Israel's foreign ministry had no comment.

Reflecting the internal tension that grew out of election, hard-line government supporters called at recent street rallies

for the execution of opposition leaders.

Iran's nuclear work has also put it under pressure from the United States and its European allies, which suspect Tehran is seeking to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Iran denies that and insists its nuclear work only has peaceful aims, such as energy production.

Iraq says explosives seized in security operation

IRAQI security forces say they thwarted attempted terror attacks yesterday when they seized a large cache of explosives during cordon-and-search operations in Baghdad, amid heightened tensions in the run-up to crucial March polls.

Iraq's nationwide parliamentary elections will test whether Iraqis can vote in a government capable of overcoming deepening ethnic and sectarian rivalries, or whether those divisions will dissolve into violence that threatens the country's unity and regional stability.

Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Mousawi, the capital's top military official, said security forces had launched pre-emptive raids and seized 440 pounds (200 kilograms) of TNT, 440 pounds (200 kilograms) C4 and 66 gallons (250 liters) of ammonia, as well as 60 explosive devices.

"The security forces were able to arrest 25 men who planned to carry out terrorist attacks in Baghdad this morning," he said.

It was impossible to independently verify the government's claims, which followed hours of lockdowns and searches of neighborhoods across the capital. Such operations have become rare since the height of the insurgency in 2006 and 2007.

An explosives expert told The Associated Press that if the government's claims were true, the amount of military grade explosive seized would have been enough for several car bombs or a large truck bomb.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. Officials have warned that insurgents seeking to disrupt the March 7 vote could try to step up attacks as the election nears.

...Iran accuses US, Israel of involvement

IRANIAN nuclear scientist Massoud Ali Mohammadi was killed yesterday in a rare bomb attack in Tehran which the government blamed on "mercenaries" in the pay of archfoes Israel and the United States.

The killing comes amid an increasingly bitter standoff between Iran and world powers over Tehran's controversial

nuclear drive, which the West suspects is masking an atomic weapons programme.

Mohammadi, a particle physics professor at prestigious Tehran University, died when a bomb strapped to a motorcycle was triggered by remote control outside his home in northern Tehran, state media said. "One can see in preliminary investigations signs

of evilness by the triangle of the Zionist regime, America and their mercenaries in Iran in this terrorist incident," foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said.

Tehran's chief prosecutor echoed his words, implicating US and Israeli intelligence services. "Given the fact that Massoud Ali Mohammadi was a nuclear scien-

tist, the CIA and Mossad services and agents most likely have had a hand in it," Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi told the state broadcaster's news service.

Dolatabadi told the ISNA news agency that Mohammadi died when a booby-trapped motorbike parked outside his house exploded as he was getting into his car.

International

Angola and its Cabinda separatist rebels

By Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

THE African Cup of Nations being hosted in Portuguese-speaking Angola was tragically overshadowed last weekend, when guerillas of the Forces for the Liberation of Cabinda-Military Position (FLEC-PM) attacked the team bus of the Togo national team, killing the driver and wounding several others, including players of the team.

A total of three died from their wounds and the Togolese team was eventually withdrawn from the tournament. The separatist body boasted that "weapons will talk", as attacks will continue, because the Confederation of African Football (CAF), did not shift games away from the enclave.

The group's secretary general, Rodrigues Mingas, who is in exile in France, told the French news agency, AFP that "this is going to continue, because Hayatou persists", accusing CAF president, Issa Hayatou, of refusal to cancel or shift the games from Cabinda.

The tragic attack on the Togolese team, at a time when the sporting world was focusing attention on Angola, has been a real propaganda coup for an obscure separatist guerilla group fighting to separate the oil-rich Cabinda region, from Angola. Angola's Minister for Cabinda Affairs, Antonio Bento Bembe, himself a former rebel commander of FLEC, described the attack on the Togolese as an act of terrorism.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sports, Wilfried Lemke, said "this abhorrent deed is not only a violent act against innocent civilians. It is also an attack against the values of sports".

The special adviser added that assaulting those taking part in sport "means attacking the very human values that sports embodies... It seems by attacking [players and fans], the perpetrators also try to sabotage peaceful sport encounters and the hospitality of the hosts of international or local events and spread a message of despair and fear", according to AllAfrica.com.

But these words will not cut ice with the separatist organization. Cabinda is situated in Central Africa between DR Congo and Congo; an area of about 10,000 square kilometers which stretches along the Atlantic coast, a strip of DR Congo territory 60 kilometers in width, divides Cabinda from Angola.

Cabinda has a population of 300,000 people, with only one third of these living in the territory and the rest located in DR Congo and Congo-Brazzaville. Of the literate population, 90% are said to be French speaking and only 10% use Portuguese, the official language of Angola. It became a protectorate of Portugal in 1885 and it was not until 1956 that

Portugal joined the protectorate administration with the colony of Angola.

In 1960, the Freedom Movement for the State of Cabinda (MLEC) was formed and following mergers with two other groups, Portugal allowed FLEC to establish itself on Cabinda territory. The struggle for Angolan independence was in progress at this time. On November 11, 1975, troops of Angola's national liberation movement, the MPLA,

la's minister for Cabinda affairs, signed a peace deal with the government.

The government has tried from the 1990s to implement various measures to appease Cabinda's population, especially encouraging FLEC members to lay down arms; at the same time, 10% of the province's oil revenue is being re-invested in Cabinda while there are also efforts to improve infrastruc-

cial capital.

The pacification of Cabinda by government forces has led to accusations of atrocities by the international human rights organization, Human Rights Watch, in a Jun 2009, report, titled "Terror in Cabinda". The report chronicled arbitrary arrests, lengthy detentions, torture and cruel and inhumane treatment of detainees in military custody. There were reports of gang rape by troops and killings of villagers.

mentioned.

It was a major embarrassment for Angola and African football that the FLEC guerillas pulled off the attack; this was at a point when Angola was about to host the cup of nations as an expression of the return to peace after years of civil war.

Yet in the past few years, things seemed to have been looking up for Angola in the Cabinda insurgency. In June 2003, the chief of staff of FLEC-FAC, Fransisco Luemba and six other high-ranking officers surrendered to the government.

The founder of FLEC, Ranque Franque also paid a surprise visit to the Angolan capital, Luanda, in July 2003, indicating what observers saw as part of the efforts of the government to speed up the negotiation process with the rebels in the enclave. It seems obvious, though, that fighting has persisted despite denials by former rebel leader and now government minister, Bento Bembe.

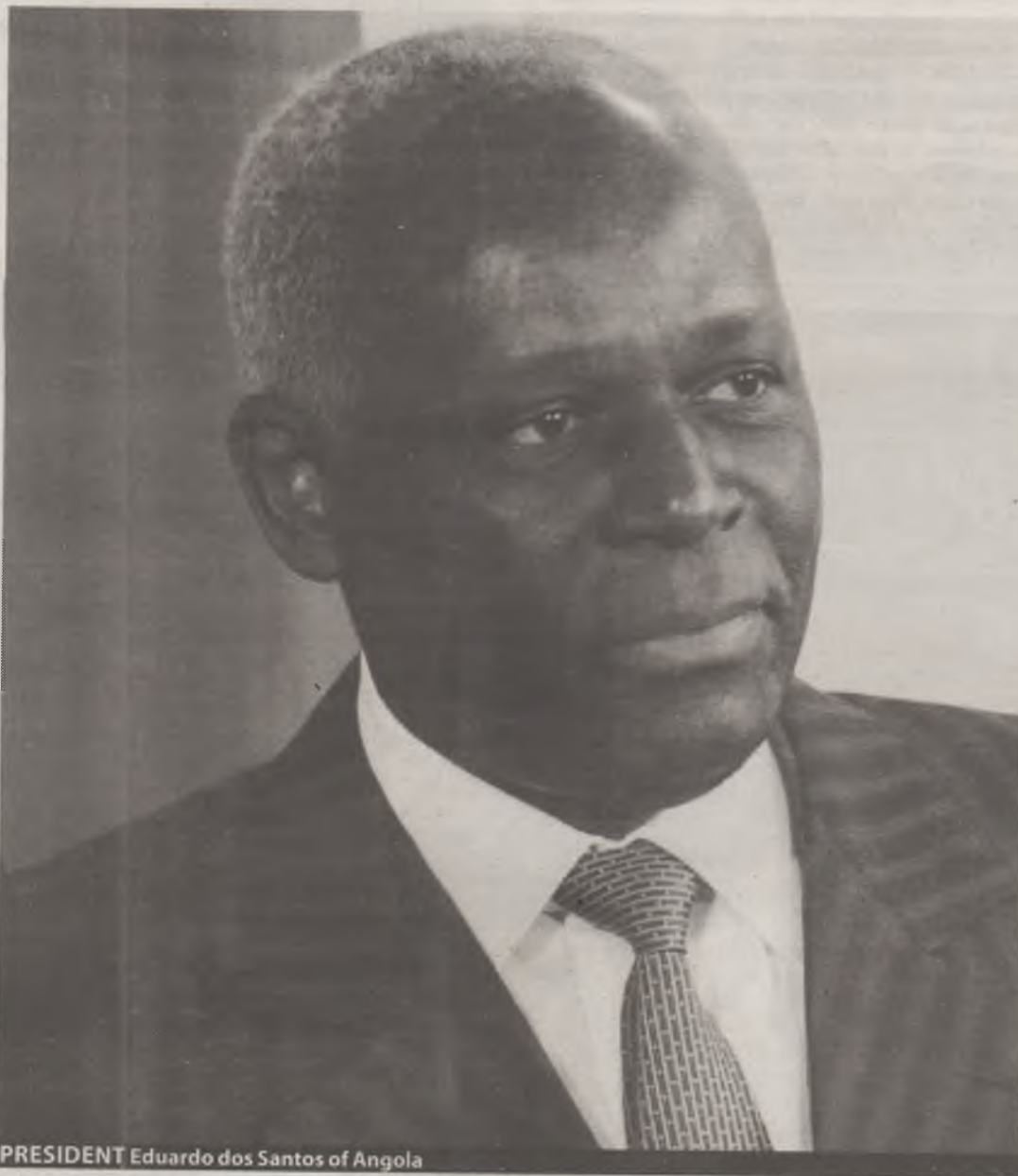
It underlines that the grievances in Cabinda continue to feed the insurgency or the efforts at development by the central government are not as fast and all-encompassing as they should be. The successful raid against the Togolese national team came at a bad time for Angola while it has highlighted the problems of Cabinda. Angola's war of liberation was a classic expression of the East-West rivalry of the Cold War era in Africa.

The anti-imperialist and progressive forces of Africa and beyond supported the MPLA, which was seen rightly, as the movement which expressed the broad interests of the Angolan people as well as Africa's strategic objective to defeat apartheid in South Africa as well as achieve Namibia's independence.

The Western powers led by the USA, supported UNITA/FNLA and apartheid South Africa, in an effort to slow the march of African progress. Up to 2002, Angola was still in the war which was fuelled as part of a rivalry which ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

What is clear is that Angola still has a lot of work to do to create the basis for an inclusive and all-embracing peace in Cabinda. It is too strategic to the economic well-being of Angola and the military approach will not solve the problem. As the attack on the Togolese national team bus has shown, even a handful of men with automatic weapons can cause a huge embarrassment when it will hurt most.

Angola wanted to showcase its return to peace and its economic prowess as the country with the second highest growth rate in the world, second only to Qatar, in 2009, but the Cabinda separatists turned the table in a most negatively emphatic manner.



PRESIDENT Eduardo dos Santos of Angola

entered Cabinda, through Point Noire, Congo. This was to become the basis of the decades-long conflict between the government forces and FLEC.

Angola's economy depends heavily on its oil sector, which is said to account for about half of the country's GDP and 90% of export revenues. Cabinda produces more than half of Angola's oil and accounts for nearly all of its foreign exchange earnings.

The separatists have demanded a greater share of oil revenues and have often kidnapped foreign nationals to draw attention to their claims for independence. In 2002, following the end of the long-drawn out civil war with UNITA, government forces launched an offensive against Cabinda's FLEC guerillas.

In 2006, the rebels under Antonio Bento Bembe, Ango-

ture and kick-start development. Some of the developments for the African cup of nations had also been directed towards Cabinda.

While a FLEC faction led by Bento Bembe signed a peace deal, another faction did not and on May 22, 1996, a faction of FLEC that calls itself FAC or the Armed Forces of Cabinda, launched attacks a week after the peace agreement.

This faction was seen as posing the greatest threat to government and in 2002, while announcing its intention to open talks with separatists as well as offering limited autonomy within Angola, government launched a major offensive which destroyed the main base of FLEC-FAC, at a place called Kungo-Shonzo, in the municipality of Buco-Zau, 110 kilometers from Cabinda town, the provin-

Yet so confident was the government about the result of its pacification efforts in Cabinda that by the end of February 2003, the Angolan Army's chief of staff, General Armando da Cruz Neto, was announcing "significant changes in Cabinda's military situation as a result of actions" by Angolan forces. He announced as the next phase of operations "the development of border control mechanisms, so as to prevent FLEC forces from regrouping and returning".

The action by FLEC against the Togolese national football team was reported to have taken place soon after they cleared border formalities between Congo and Cabinda; it obviously did not indicate success in the border control mechanism which the Angolan chief of staff

International

Honduras' top court to hear case against military

HONDURAS' Supreme Court agreed yesterday to hear a request by the chief prosecutor to charge the country's top military commanders with abuse of power for sending President Manuel Zelaya into exile.

The court said in a statement that it has asked the six members of the Joint Chief of Staff to attend a hearing Thursday. Supreme Court President Jorge Rivera will hear the case before deciding how to proceed, the statement said.

The prosecutor's case doesn't question Zelaya's ouster itself, only whether the military went too far in flying the ousted leader to Costa Rica after he was arrested by armed soldiers in a dispute over a constitutional referendum.

It is unlikely the court will charge the officers. The high court has repeatedly ruled or advised against reinstating Zelaya as president. It has also said he faces charges of treason and abuse of power, in large part for disobeying the court's orders to drop his plan for the referendum on changing the constitution.

In addition, President-elect Porfirio Lobo, who won the Nov. 29 election to succeed Zelaya, has said he supports granting amnesty both to Zelaya and to all of those involved in the coup.

Chile opens Museum of Memory for dirty war victims

CHILE inaugurated the Museum of Memory yesterday to make sure the tens of thousands of people who were imprisoned, killed or disappeared during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship are not forgotten. President Michelle Bachelet, who was herself detained and tortured during Chile's 1973-1990 military regime, said the museum sends a powerful signal of the country's "desire to never again suffer a tragedy like the one we are remembering here."

"A tragedy that from the first day brought together denial and concealment, and the pain of captivity or death," Bachelet said at the opening of the \$22 million Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Chile's capital, Santiago.

The inauguration stirred angry memories days before Chile's presidential runoff election in which the ruling center-left coalition could lose power to the right for the first time since the restoration of democracy.

A commission established that 3,197 people died during the dictatorship, including those listed as missing. Another commission found that 30,000 people were imprisoned and/or tortured.

Israel angrily rejects Turkish leader's charges

ISRAEL has responded angrily to Turkey's latest criticism of the Jewish state, saying the Turks should be "the last to preach morality" and scolding their ambassador in a highly publicized snub.

Turkey's ties with Israel have been strained by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's fierce criticism of the Jewish state's use of force against Palestinians. For years Israel's isolation in the overwhelmingly Arab Mideast had been eased by good ties with predominantly Muslim Turkey.

In 2008, it mediated several rounds of indirect talks between Israel and Syria. But the alliance began to fray after Israel's three-week military offensive in the Gaza Strip early last year. Erdogan, who heads an Islamist-oriented government, set off

the latest round of acrimony by accusing Israel of being a threat to world peace and using disproportionate force in the Gaza war.

The operation was launched against Gaza militants, but hundreds of Palestinian civilians were among the more than 1,400 dead.

"We can never remain silent in the face of Israel's attitude. ... It has disproportionate power and it is using that at will, while refusing to abide by UN resolutions," Erdogan said in Lebanon, Israel's northern neighbour and foe.

Israel lashed back by insisting it had "the full right" to protect

itself against Islamic Hamas militants in Gaza, which had bombarded Israel with thousands of rockets for years before the offensive, and against Lebanese

Hezbollah guerrillas who struck Israel with 4,000 rockets during their 2006 war.

"The Turks should be the last to preach morality," Israel's Foreign Ministry said in a statement late

yesterday, an apparent reference to Turkey's past conduct against Armenians, Kurds and Greek Cypriots.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry rejected that criticism, saying

Turkey has always been a friend to Jews. "Deep-rooted relations between Turks and Jews that precede the establishment of the Israeli state and the general structure of our relations give us the responsibility to make such warnings and criticism," it said in a statement.

On Monday evening, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon summoned the Turkish ambassador to criticize a Turkish television drama depicting Israeli security forces as kidnapping children and shooting old men. Another show broadcast last year similarly portrayed Israeli security forces as brutal.

As the meeting started, Ayalon told cameramen the ambassador was pointedly seated on a sofa lower than his own chair.

Turks should be the last to preach morality," Israel's Foreign Ministry said



FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair's communications chief Alastair Campbell speaks at a hearing of the Iraq Inquiry, yesterday.

Tony Blair's communications chief defends dossier

FORMER Downing Street spin doctor Alastair Campbell yesterday strongly defended his role in preparing a highly controversial 2002 dossier used to justify the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Under questioning from the Iraq Inquiry, Campbell vehemently denied that he "sexed up" the infamous document to strengthen former Prime Minister Tony Blair's case for joining the Americans in an invasion designed to topple Iraqi dictator

Saddam Hussein.

He called the dossier "a serious, solid piece of work" — even though much of the information it contained turned out to be wrong with regard to Saddam's military capacity — and lashed out at the British press for publishing "conspiracy theories" about the war planning.

"I defend every single word of the dossier, and I defend every single part of the process," Campbell said.

"It was a genuine attempt by the prime minister and the government to engage the public properly."

He denied pressuring Britain's intelligence chiefs to alter their conclusion to strengthen Blair's case for war and said he did not distort the intelligence in any way.

"At no point did anyone from the PM (prime minister) on down say to the intelligence services, look, you have to tailor this case,"

he told the panel, asserting that intelligence chief John Scarlett and his management team were satisfied with the report and its forward.

It was a spirited defense from the man who served as Blair's top communications strategist from 1997 until his resignation in August 2003.

He has consistently denied wrongdoing, telling three other inquiries that the dossier's preparation was handled properly.



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1. Job Title: Executive Secretary (ES) Code: MAL/101/ES

SUMMARY

The ES is the Chief Executive of the Institute. Under the supervision of the President and Honorable General Secretary (HGS), the ES is responsible for overall management and operation of the organization and ensures consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives. The ES supervises all line managers in finance, administration, exams and membership, research, communication and consultancy.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree or equivalent in Building or Related Discipline
Master's degree in business administration (MBA) or public administration (MPA) is preferred
At least 7 years experience in a managerial capacity

2. Job Title: Deputy Executive Secretary (DES) Code: MAL/102/DES

SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the ES, the DES supports the ES in overall management and operation of the organization of the Institute. In addition to handling special projects and acting in the absence of the ES, the DES is responsible for developing and managing the communication apparatus of the institute as well as be the focal point person for strategy development, review and implementation.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree or (At least 2nd Class Lower) in Science or Social Sciences
Master's degree in business administration (MBA) or public administration (MPA) is preferred
Experience with developing and managing communication plan is required
Experience with managing organizational strategy is required

3. Job Title: Administration and Personnel Manager (APM) Code: MAL/103/APM

SUMMARY

Under the supervision the Executive Secretary (ES) the APM is responsible for the daily function of administration and personnel at NIOB head office in Abuja. The APM supervises the personnel and admin staff and collaborates with the all other staff and units to ensure effective administrative support, training and staff management.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) in Human Resources, Finance, Business Management or related disciplines
Master's degree in business administration (MBA) or public administration (MPA) is an advantage
At least 3 years experience in a managerial capacity

4. Job Title: Chief Accountant Code: MAL/104/CA

SUMMARY

Under the supervision the Executive Secretary (ES) the Accountant is responsible for the daily function of accounting at the Institute's head office in Abuja. Daily function includes capturing income, generating of monthly financial report, treasury, budgeting, filing, taxation, and other finance and accounting related issues. The Accountant also required to work closely with the other line departments and to support the Executive Secretary and the Council in all financial matters.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) or HND (Upper Credit) in Accounting or Finance
At least 5 years continuous accounting experience
Accountancy qualification (ICAN, ACCA, etc) is required

5. Job Title: Examination and Membership Manager (EMM) Code: MAL/105/EMM

SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the ES, the EMM is responsible for overall management and operation of membership and examination unit of the Institute and act as lead contact with the Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON). The EMM will promote awareness of NIOB, manage the

recruitment campaign, manage the examination of all levels, and manage all aspects of Membership examination of the Institute, including new applicants, ensuring the efficient administration of documentation and adherence to procedures. The EMM supervises all line officers in membership and examination.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) in the Sciences or Social Sciences
Certificate or Diploma in IT
Experience with Database Management is a Plus
At least 3 years experience in a managerial capacity

6. Job Title: Training and Consultancy Manager (TCM) Code: MAL/106/TCM

SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the ES, the TCM is responsible for developing training modules and marketing them for both members and non members of the institute. The TCM is also responsible for running the consultancy arm of the institute by working with other professionals and stakeholders in the built environment to deliver cutting edge consultancy services to the building and construction industry. The TCM supervises all line officers in Learning and Development as well as outside consultants

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) or HND (Upper Class) in Building Technology, Architecture, Civil or Structural Engineering
At least 3 years experience in a managerial capacity

7. Job Title: Accounts Assistant Code: MAL/107/ACA

SUMMARY

Under the supervision the Chief Accountant, the Accounts Assistant is responsible for collecting all monies (cash, credit cards, promissory notes, cheques, etc) at the NIOB head office in Abuja. The Accounts Assistant is also responsible for keeping petty cash and disbursing same to staff and vendors as directed by approval authorities.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) or HND (Upper Credit) in Accounting or Finance
At least 2 years continuous Accounting experience

8. Job Title: Research Assistant/Librarian Code: MAL/108/REA

SUMMARY

Under the supervision the Research Officer, REA is responsible for conducting routine desk and operations research and Managing the Library at the NIOB head office in Abuja.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) or HND (Upper Credit) in a relevant discipline
At least 2 years work experience in a similar position

9. Job Title: Receptionist/Admin Assistant Code: MAL/109/RAA

SUMMARY

Under the supervision the Admin/HR Manager, RAA performs general receptionist and clerical duties as well as provide administrative support all departments at the NIOB head office in Abuja.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

First Degree (At least 2nd Class Lower) or HND (Upper Credit) in a relevant discipline
At least 2 years work experience in a similar position

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

STEP 1: Please visit www.ma-ltd.org and view the full job descriptions under current vacancies. Application procedures are outlined on the website.

STEP 2: Send a one page profile and your CV (as one document) in word format by email to recruitment@ma-ltd.org. The subject line of the email should contain the job title and code. For example, 'Executive Secretary; MAL/101/ES'

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for submission is on Wednesday January 20, 2010. Only applications received on or before the deadline will be accepted.

Only short-listed applicants will be notified.



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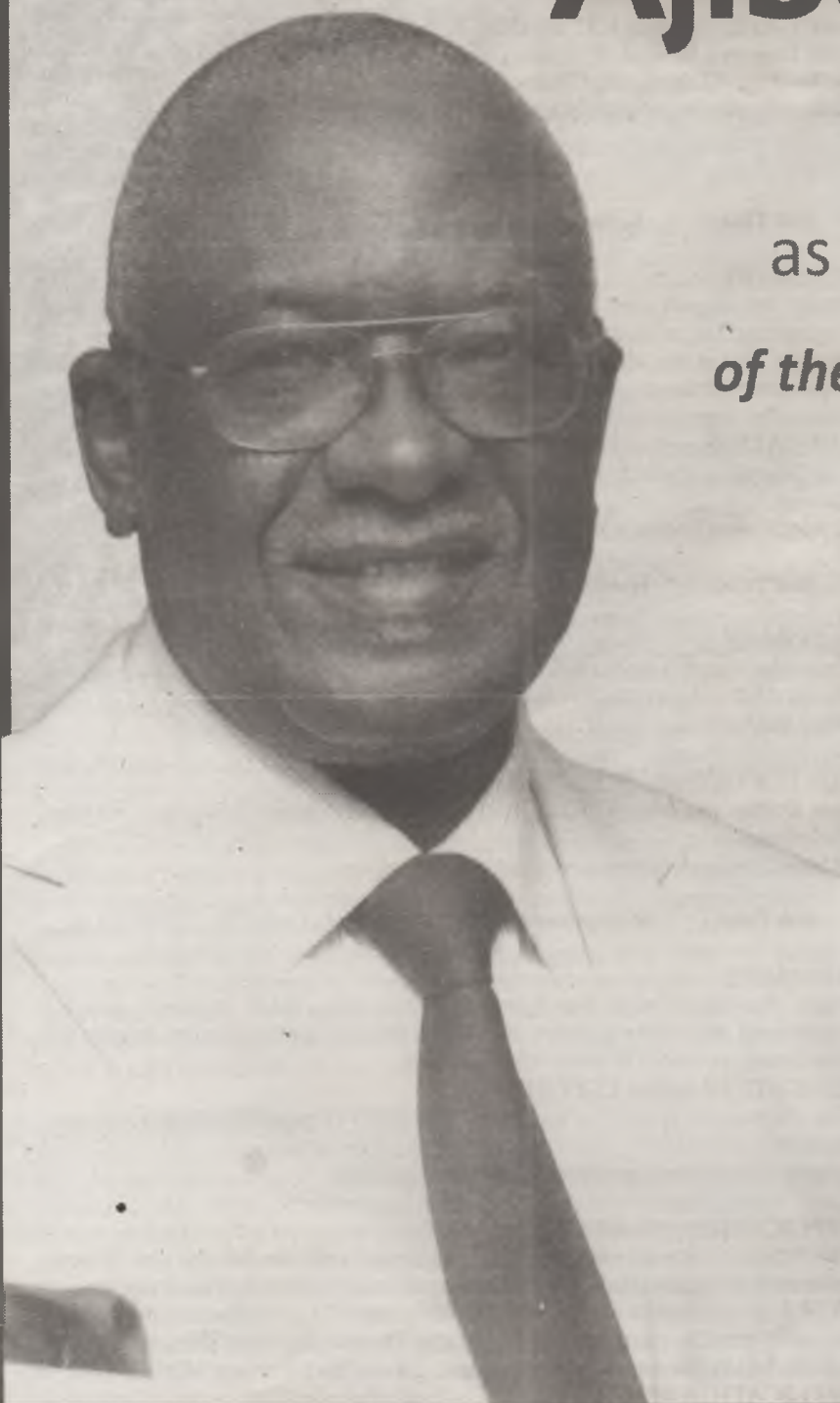
of

Engr. Olumuyiwa Alade

Ajibola, FNSE

as the **27th** President

of the Nigerian Society of Engineers



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY, 2010

■ **COLLOQUIUM**

Theme: "Engineering Imperatives for National Development"

Venue: International Conference Centre, Abuja

Time: 9:00am prompt.

Special Guest of Honour

His Excellency, **Umaru Musa Yar'Adua**, GCFR
President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

■ **GALA / DINNER NITE**

Venue: International Conference Centre, Abuja

Time: 7:00pm prompt

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2010

■ **INVESTITURE**

Venue: International Conference Centre, Abuja

Time: 10.00am prompt

R.S.V.P

Engr. A. K. Amshi, FNSE
Executive Secretary, NSE
08036186120

Engr. O. W. Uzebu, FNSE
Chairman, Investiture Planning Committee
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FG, states, LGs share N4.17tr in 2009

By Sunday Williams

THE Federal, State and Local Governments shared the sum of N4.174 trillion from the Federation Account in 2009, Minister of State for Finance Mr. Remi Babalola has said.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja at the meeting of the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC), the minister said that a total sum of US\$5.5 billion was distributed from the Foreign Excess Crude Account last year.

Meanwhile, the minister said that FAAC approved the sharing of N370.313 billion among federal, state and local governments from the total revenue generated in December 2009.

He gave the breakdown of the distribution as: Statutory Allocation, N235.67 billion, Value Added Tax (VAT), N42.923 billion, budget augmentation disbursement, N51.85 billion and exchange rate difference of N39.87 billion. The revenue distributed in the month of December shows a decrease of N3.258 billion or 0.87% compared to the amount distributed in November 2009.

The three tiers of government had last month shared N373.571 billion from the Federation Account. The amount was made up of Statutory Allocation of N286.93 billion; VAT of N38.014 billion; and exchange rate difference of N48.627 billion.

The minister said that last year's release from the Federation Account of N4.174 trillion was the highest injection into the system within a fiscal year in the last 10 years. He said: "This Committee in 2009 distributed to the various tiers of government a total of N2,831 billion as Statutory revenue allocation, N449.644 billion as revenue from Value Added Tax, N735.017 billion as augmentation for shortfalls in the budgeted revenue, N158.679 billion as exchange gain difference between the prevailing exchange rate and the budgeted exchange rate, while a total sum of US\$5.5 billion dollars was distributed from the Foreign Excess Crude Account."

He disclosed that the country's macroeconomic environment remained bright with a very promising and reasonable macroeconomic stability, especially with the on-going reintegration and rehabilitation of former militants, and sustained improvement in the price and production of oil.



REMI Babalola, Minister of State for Finance

"The outlook for the fiscal year 2010 is predicated on some basic assumptions. These include: Oil production of 2.088 million barrels per day, benchmark oil price of US\$57/barrel, Joint Venture cash calls of US\$5 billion, average exchange rate of N150 to the US dollar, and target Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 6.1 per cent. "The target inflation rate is 11.2 per cent and there is a deliberate expansion in budgeted expenditure by about 31.5 per cent to counter the effect of the credit crunch on the economy as well as to reduce the infrastructure gap," the minister stated. He stressed the need for all tiers of government to be "cautious though pragmatic" with the current \$80 per barrel spot price of Nigeria's reference oil.

He said that the high oil price was being driven by the low value of the US dollar and the low interest rates in the United States of America.

He said that the current post con-

solidation banking reform was aimed at strengthening the banking system to forestall systemic crisis. He said that the year 2009 will be remembered for extreme volatility and dysfunction in the financial system, particularly private sector credit which serves businesses and households.

He said: "In recognition of the imperatives of a strong and robust banking sector to accelerate economic recovery, measures have been put in place to restore the viability of the sector, especially with the Asset Management Company initiative to assist in restructuring and further improving the balance sheets of banks, and enhance the flow of credit to the real sector to boost growth and development of the economy.

"In 2010, appropriate measures to enhance and sustain macroeconomic stability, the soundness of the financial sector, improvement of public expenditure management as well as the growth and diversification of the economy are being put in place."

ExxonMobil pays Nigeria \$73bn in 10 years

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

AMERICAN Oil giant ExxonMobil has said that it has paid the sum of \$73 billion as oil revenue to the Federal government between 1999 and 2009.

The company also said it invested over \$14 billion in oil and gas operation in Nigeria in the last 10 years.

Mark Ward, Lead Country Manager, ExxonMobil Subsidiaries, disclosed this in Lagos yesterday while giving assessment of the company's performance in the country in 2009. He said his company has committed over \$280 million in community development projects in the last decade.

According to him, the development underscores his company's commitment to social

His company has committed over \$280 million in community development projects in the last decade

investment in the country. "Our programmes support social and community assistance projects in areas such as health, Education, capacity building and infrastructure, helping to deliver benefits to millions of Nigeria.

"We are honoured to be able to develop the nation's energy resources, to provide employment and economic opportunities for Nigeria."

Speaking on the company's production level last year, Ward said ExxonMobil sustained the production level, even through the challenging pre-amnesty period. According to him, his company resolved the issues of joint ventures lease renewals as it signed an agreement with the Federal government last November.

He said 2010 promises to be challenging given the Petroleum Industry Bill before the National Assembly which when passed into law would change the scope and structure of the oil and gas business in the country.

Among the key priorities of the company for the new year, according to Ward, include: enhancement of relationships with its partners [NNPC/NAPIMS], efficient and flawless execution in operations and development of people and organizational capabilities.

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.3014	0.3114	0.3214
DANISH KRONER	28.7781	28.8757	28.9733
EURO	214.231	214.9577	215.6843
POUNDS STERLING	238.4799	239.2888	240.0977
RIYAL	39.3093	39.4427	39.576
SDR	251.8759	252.6624	253.4489
SWISS FRANC	145.003	145.4948	145.9866
US DOLLAR	147.41	147.91	148.41
WAUA	228.6019	229.3773	230.1527
YEN	1.595	1.604	1.6058

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N152
EURO.....	N220
POUNDS.....	N252
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N153
EURO.....	N223
POUNDS.....	N255

Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wise Zone 4, Abuja.

Stock Market Index

Date:	Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Index:	22,057.64
Deals:	6,743
Volume:	406,237,865
Value:	N2,134,500,546.93
Cap.:	N5,284,157,816,751.00

Business

Oceanic bank cuts salary by 30 per cent, sacks more staff

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

OCEANIC Bank Plc, one of the ailing banks bailed out with public funds, despite laying-off 1,500 staff beginning December 2009, has issued a memo to all its branches indicating a reduction in staff salary by almost 30 per cent across all grades.

The memo dated January 5, 2010, which emanated from

the Human Resources Department of its corporate office, was jointly signed by its Head Performance, Management and Reward, Wole Ogunremi and the Head, Human Resources, Victor Banjo, Daily Trust learnt at the weekend.

Aside from the downward review in salaries, the latest targets, according to an undisclosed official source are five personnel from the security

staff cadre who were issued sack letters on 7 January, 2010, but backdated to 18 December, 2009. But an official who does not want his identity disclosed said that even though the criteria for the lay-off was not clearly spelt out, the bank is engaging this strategy because it cannot cope with present market challenges.

Some of the retrenched personnel who worked as uncon-

firmed staff for over 4 years lamented against injustice as they have diligently served the bank, but only to be retrenched said, they are unsure of what would happen to their years of service, since it would not reflect on their work experience because they were not yet permanent staff at the time the retrenchment exercise took place.

The bank's Managing Direc-

tor/CEO John Aboh last week refuted reports of fresh staff disengagement saying, it is unfounded and a premeditated attempt by people out to derail the consistent progress being recorded by the bank, while urging customers, shareholders and the entire banking public to disregard such reports because the bank is making steady progress with its recovery efforts.

Call charges in Nigeria not high – NCC

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

FOR those advocating for reduced call charges in Nigeria because they feel the current call rates by telecoms operators is unreasonable, they would perhaps have to wait a little longer.

This is because the regulator, National Communications Commission (NCC) has said the charges are reasonable and comparable to any price regime in Africa.

The Executive Secretary National Communications Commission (NCC) Mr Ernest Ndukwe told delegates at the Economists Conference which ended yesterday in Lagos that he does not believe the current charges on calls by telecoms operators in Nigeria is too high.

"I don't agree that the cost of call in Nigeria is too high. Subscribers in Nigeria are paying market rates comparable else-



MR Ernest Ndukwe, NCC boss

where in Africa," he said, adding that the prices in Nigeria is within the middle range.

"It is a thing of perception. We are in a highly competitive market and prices would go down with time. At a time in this country, a fixed line was

sold for N250,000 but the same line is almost free now," he said.

The NCC boss rather advised Nigerians to shop right for telecoms products based on their needs rather paying high for services they don't need or use.

He however acknowledge

that broadband access may be expensive but with deliberate efforts by the NCC to encourage broadband infrastructure and when the various operators laying fibre optic cables have completed work, broadband and data service would also be cheap.

On SIM card registration Ndukwe explained that the idea is not only for security reasons but to provide a platform for mobile money business.

It would also provide some form of valid identity to Nigerians who don't have means of identification like the National Identity card or international passport.

On number portability, he said, the NCC has engaged a consultant to that effect and as soon as the SIM registration reaches certain level of success, the NCC would introduce the number portability.

Police pension office relocates to Abuja

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AS part of its bid to bring its services closer to the retirees, the headquarters of Police Pension Office (PPO) has been moved to Abuja.

The office which was moved just as its new Director, Mal. Atiku Abubakar Kigo has moved, is to strengthen the state offices in order to eliminate unnecessary bottlenecks in the process and payment of pensions to retirees.

This was made known in a press statement issued from the office of the director police pension office.

"Police pension office is automating the process of all applications by retirees as well as constant verifying of their numbers and submission by the pensioners' the statement stated.

The statement said the PPO has made efforts to create workable and specific timelines when retirees would be paid their monthly pensions and quarterly gratuity so as to guide against unnecessary delay in the processing of the payments while arrangements have also been concluded by the new director to visit all state offices to access the implementation of decentralization programme with a view to establish a solid structure which will guarantee prompt payment of benefits to retirees.



MAL. Atiku Abubakar Kigo

Yobe to resuscitate dormant industries

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

DORMANT industries in Yobe State would be resuscitated in order to develop the economic potentials of the people by creating job opportunities, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has said.

To achieve this, Gaidam said his administration will lay a solid commercial and industrial base, adding that special provision has been made in the 2010 budget for industrial development after which investors would be brought in to manage the industries.

"We will continue to provide equity finance for the completion and furnishing of the 3-star hotel in Damaturu and the Yusufari Soda Ash company," Gaidam said.

Daily Trust reports that the idea of the 3-star hotel which was conceived years back could not be accomplished

because of several factors including misunderstandings between the government and contractors, a development which prompted the state government to revoke the contract and continue work through direct labour which has now reached more than 90% completion stage.

According to Gaidam "We will equally provide working capital, equipment and spare parts for the Hydro block making factory, Sahel Aluminium factory, polythene and woven sack factory, Dofarga Spring water Company and Yobe Fertilizer company so as to make them work efficiently," he said.

He said government intends to gradually disengage from running the companies by opening doors for private investors. "Through public-private partnership, we hope to generate revenue from the companies," Gaidam added.

Minister tasks states, councils on home-made goods

THE Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Achike Udenwa, has implored states and local governments to emulate the federal government by patronizing made-in-Nigeria goods.

Udenwa made the appeal in Kano on Monday when he called on Gov. Ibrahim Shekarau as part of the build-up to the launch of the North-West zone campaign for patronage of made-in-Nigeria goods.

He said the measure would go a long way to sustain the nation's industries. Udenwa said the Federal Government had already, by its procurement policy, been patronizing made-in-Nigeria goods as a way of protecting the local industries and generating employment for Nigerians. The minister said the other two tiers of government should do likewise by procuring and promoting the home-made goods

in order to attain the objective. Udenwa urged Nigerians to shun foreign goods and patronise the local goods, arguing that their preference to goods made abroad was killing Nigerian industries.

He also charged the local industries to produce qualitative goods to attract the attention of Nigerian customers. He said the campaign was aimed at sensitizing Nigerians to be patronizing made-in-Nigeria goods. Udenwa explained that the choice of Kano as the venue for the launch of the North-West zone of the exercise on Tuesday was informed by its position as a city of commerce and industry in the zone.

In a remark, Shekarau said there was the need to resuscitate the nation's power sector and the railway system as part of measures to revive the ailing indus-

(NAN)

Business/International

China car sales overtake US



PRESIDENT Barack Obama

CHINA'S auto sales surged past the United States to reach record levels in 2009, industry figures showed on Monday, underscoring China's importance to the global auto industry as the world's biggest market.

The figures came as PSA Peugeot Citroen of France said markets were expected to show signs of recovery around the world in 2010, while Volkswagen AG said it aims to at least double its U.S. sales in coming years.

After a year in which Chinese automakers made key

acquisitions abroad, Beijing's renewed incentives to bolster demand will likely keep it as a bright spot for car makers battered by the financial crisis.

Vehicle sales in the country came to a record 13.6 million units in 2009, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said, well above a previous target of 10 million units and compared with annual sales of 10.4 million cars and light trucks in the United States, the lowest level in 27 years.

The Chinese tally, which also includes heavy vehicles, is still higher than that of the United States after deducting roughly 650,000 units of heavy trucks, Orient Securities said.

"Sales have been extremely hot in most parts of last year with little seasonal changes. Many people have to wait for weeks or even months to get their cars," said Qin Xuwen, an analyst at Orient.

The past year has seen Chinese automakers venturing on to the global stage for the first time in a major way, ready to snap up brands such

as Volvo and Hummer which they previously admired from afar.

Peugeot said Europe would miss out on any global upturn, forecasting a 1-digit percentage decline as state-funded scrappage schemes are removed or phased out.

"The second half should see some glimmers of improvement," it said in a statement, reporting a 2.2 percent decline in 2009 sales of new vehicles and "complete knock down" (CKD) units to 3,188,000.

It was boosted by newer models such as the Citroen C3 Picasso, its position in light commercial vehicles and its low CO2-emission line-up.

PSA shares were up 2.7 percent to 27.22 euros in early trading, taking its 2010 gain so far to 15 percent.

PSA is in cooperation talks with Mitsubishi Motors Corp of Japan.

Volkswagen, Europe's biggest car maker, said it aims to more than double its sales in the United States within the next three to four years, the head of its U.S. business said. *Reuters.*

World stocks hit 15-month high

WORLD stocks rose for the sixth session running on Monday, hitting a 15-month high, with stronger trade data from China boosting optimism about the global economy while the dollar remained under pressure.

The dollar slipped following Friday's weak U.S. jobs data and comments from a Federal Reserve official that interest rates in the United States are likely to stay low for quite some time.

Cold weather in the United States and Europe, a weaker U.S. currency and concerns over gasoline supplies following a fire at Korea National Oil Corp's Newfoundland refinery in Canada helped oil to jump more than \$1 to a 15-month high.

Stronger-than-expected Chinese export and import

data and a fall in the dollar also boosted commodities, with gold rising 1.7 percent to a 5-week high, copper jumping 3 percent and aluminum advancing more than 2 percent.

China's exports leapt 17.7 percent from a year earlier, dwarfing the 4.0 percent rise forecast by economists and breaking a 13-month streak of year-on-year declines. Imports surged 55.9 percent, much more than the 31 percent increase markets had expected. "China is one of the biggest exporters in the world and they will play a very strong hand in the global economic recovery. That is why this news has been received very well by investors," said Joshua Raymond, market analyst at City Index.

Despite the indications

of gathering economic momentum, Finance Minister Xie Xuren said China would stick to its pro-growth fiscal stance, warning that withdrawing spending too early could damage the economy.

Global equities measured in the MSCI All-Country World Index rose 0.9 percent to 309.95 points after rising to 310.08, the highest since late September of 2008. The FTSEurofirst 300 of top European shares hit a 15-month peak, boosted by financial and energy stocks.

The U.S. currency continued to be under pressure after data on Friday showed U.S. employers cut 85,000 jobs last month, disappointing many in the market who had expected the U.S. economy to stop losing jobs. *Reuters.*

US trade gap widens sharply as imports grow

THE US trade deficit widened sharply in November as the recovering economy boosted demand for imports to their highest level in almost a year.

The deficit grew to \$36.4bn (£22.6bn), up 9.7% from an upwardly revised figure of \$33.2bn in October. The increase was more than analysts had expected.

Imports totalled \$174.6bn,

up by 2.6% from the previous month, while exports totalled \$138.2bn, up 0.9%.

The US's closely-watched deficit with China narrowed to \$20.2bn from \$22.7bn in October.

The big jump in imports to the US reflected an increase in demand for industrial materials and consumer goods. This more than offset a fall in demand for foods and

cars.

Economists were encouraged by the fact that both imports and exports increased.

"The big news is continued and sustained growth in trade volume, signalling recovery both in the US and among major US trading partners," said Christopher Cornell, at Moody's Economy.com. *BBC.*

Inspirational moments with
Akinsola Akinfemiwa
 GMD/CEO, Skye Bank

ON

Skye High

Inspirational Moments

LEADERSHIP (5)

What's the relevance of wisdom in leadership? Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge and experience to any given situation.

We live in an age of information where knowledge is expanding and exploding. Every 60 seconds, 2000 typewritten pages are added to man's knowledge and the material produced every 24 hours takes the average person over 5 years to read.

Even if we had the capacity of a computer, which by the way can store over 5 million words per second, it would still be useless because knowledge is useless unless it is applied.

The person who thinks he knows too much still has a lot to learn. Insight enables us to use knowledge appropriately and develop the ability for discernment.

The effective leader must develop his power for insight. One of the tests of leadership is to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency. So how do leaders sharpen their skills for insight?

As the saying goes leaders are readers. An effective leader will develop a regular reading programme. The more knowledge you obtain regarding your particular area of interest, the better you can apply wisdom when it is needed. Invest valuable time in instructional material on the go. It is time well invested to glean from the experiences of others.

As the saying goes if you are the smartest one in the company you keep. Well... you need new friends. Spend time with other leaders. Knowledge and wisdom gained is never lost. Leaders who accomplish the most are leaders who are able to

communicate their wisdom effectively to others.

Sharing goals and strategies are very important to the success of any organization. People need to know where they are heading before they can make any commitments towards placing team needs above theirs.

The effective leader will always share information and will never hoard it.

By taking time to share information that leader demonstrates an individual's value to the organization. Leadership also requires honesty and ethics. Corruption and honesty set in when a leader loses sight of the fact that he or she was given the power of purpose... to serve.

People are changed, not by coercion or intimidation but by example.

Examples set... establish standards. In order to be a leader, a man must have followers. To have followers, a man must have their confidence.

He must have integrity. Preaching the tenets of leadership is critical and can never be exhausted. The necessity to have leaders who will inspire people, organizations and nations cannot be misplaced.

I'll suggest you spend time with books that exemplify leadership and approach it from practical steps you can apply, and then align them with your day to day activities.

My pick will be 'Developing the leader within you' by John C Maxwell. It's a book that serves well for leadership aspirants and individuals saddled with the task of influencing groups of individuals. With easy illustrations and concepts to follow, his knowledgeable depth will sink in... So what is knowledge without wisdom? Do Have a wonderful week.

Skye High is also on Radio presently:

RADIO STATIONS	TIME	RADIO STATIONS	TIME
• Ray Power Network	6:15am [Mon - Fri]	• Radio Continental Lagos	6:35am [Mon - Fri]
• Rhythm FM Lagos	9:00am [Mon - Fri]	• Inspiration FM Lagos	8:00am [Mon - Fri]
• Rhythm FM Abuja	6:30am [Mon - Fri]	• Edo Broad Svc (EBS)	7:55am [Mon - Fri]
• Love FM Port Harcourt	8:25am [Mon] & 8:00am [Tue - Fri]	• Cosmo FM Enugu	6:20am [Mon - Fri]
• Kiss FM 99.9 Abuja	6:30am [Mon - Fri]	• Pyramid FM Kano	6:55am [Mon - Fri]

E-mail: skyehigh@skyebank.com or SMS 07030000255



Star Feature

Piracy: Another to crack

Intellectual piracy appears to be a tough kernel which the Nigerian authorities are battling to crack. On the streets of the nation's capital and other states, it is reigning supreme.

By Tosin Omoniyi

PERHAPS it is the greatest scourge threatening the nations blossoming entertainment industry today. Many have equally agreed that the nation has not really done much to mitigate the endemic crisis of piracy in the country. It seems to have assumed a hydra headed, parasitic life of its own, which makes it seem that even those directly affected, may have decided to live with it instead of battling it to a standstill.

A visit to several parts of the capital city, for instance, will reveal that no other trade, perhaps apart from the undying 'pure water' business, is more prominent in the city. The presence of merchants of music and video compact discs, has become a regular sight in the metropolis, and in the suburban parts of Abuja. Some have decided to set stores along major roads in the city. Others who are more innovative have constructed mobile wooden carriages, with which they transport their wares along the roads, even as they urge commuters to patronize them. The trade also has no age barrier, as the young and the old take active part in it. What perhaps makes majority of residents patronize these merchants, is the affordability of their wares.

A lady who simply identifies herself as Ikwo, and a saleslady, says that she usually patronizes the merchants, whenever she wants to buy video and music cds. When asked why she prefers to do this, rather than purchase from registered and notable stores, she simply laughs while enthusing: 'many of these stores you are talking about are for the rich and the powerful. It is not everybody that can buy from places like Ceddi plaza or Legend stores, since their prices are rather on the high side. A video cd that you can buy at a cheap rate from these traders, is sold at prices that are outrageous at these stores, and they still contain the same content. So why don't I just go for the ones I can easily afford? She then adds humorously, 'abi no be the same if I chop from the buka, and if I chop at Mr Biggs. Everything na inside stomach e de go.'

A cross section of respondents evidently feel the same way as Ikwo. To them buying from the numerous merchants who parade the streets on a daily basis, is in order due to the availability of their wares. Ironically many too do not seem to be bothered that the cds are mostly pirated copies, which may account for why they are cheap and affordable.

Another respondent, Gbenga Ajiloye, says that whenever he buys such cds, he knows that they would not last long, going by the outrageously small amount they go for. So what he does according to him is to prepare his mind to the fact

that they would only play for a while, before they eventually stop working. 'We are all aware that cds like that do not last. I just buy them at times to entertain myself for a brief period. I know that when I play such cds two or three times, it starts 'scratching', and then after another period of time, they simply stop working. But that does not bother me one bit, since I know that I paid little for it.'

Findings reveal that video and music cds sold by these road side merchants are outrageously cheap. A music CD which goes for as high as N2000 in LOKAY music and bookstores, one of the prominent high class stores located in Wuse Zone 3, can be comfortably purchased at these roadside vendors, for as low as N250 or even less, depending on the bargaining power of the customer, and of course the usual desperation of the seller to sell. The same goes for video cds which are purchased at the same ridiculously low prices. Investigations also reveal that while moderately high income earners, and a considerable amount of middle class residents patronize these top stores, majority of those that buy from roadside vendors are predominantly low income earners. Interestingly some middle income earners still prefer to buy from these vendors.

Olaniyi Fidelis, a journalist with a soft sell magazine, says he buys from these vendors, adding that he actually patronizes from a particular vendor whose products he has come to trust as durable. 'I have been buying from this man for a long time, and I must say that he sells very good cds that last. Though he sells at a price slightly higher than his other colleagues, the difference is worth it. He usually sells the MP3 models which are of higher quality. Initially, when I used to buy from him I was not sure they would last. But all that I have bought from him so far, have been quality ones.' He however concedes that he used to feel guilty anytime he realizes that he is actually encouraging piracy by buying from them, but he says that he no longer feels any inhibitions when purchasing them.

On the reluctance of buyers to patronize the notable stores due to the high priced nature of their products, a sales representative of the LOKAY Christian Music and Bookstores, Wuse, says nothing can be exchanged for quality, adding that while the price may be on the high side, considering the durability of the products, the difference is worth it. 'Here we sell the very best, and this is done considering the premium we place on quality. There is great benefit when you spend in order to get the very best of knowledge. No money spent on the acquisition of knowledge is wasted,' she enthuses. She also says that efforts are



EVEN the local music industry sees 40% of its products being copied, cour

constantly made to ensure that prices are fixed, in order to make the products affordable to as many people as possible.

In December 2007, Nigerian Copyright Commission, NCC in a statement noted that the nation's film industry loses an estimated N4, 200,000,000 annually to illegal digital duplication, on-line piracy and unauthorized rental of video works within the country. Also a report by the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) in August, 2008, estimated the total annual loss of the content industries-Music, Software and Video within the nation to be well over N100, 000,000,000. Few months after this shocking revelation, Nigerian artistes gathered at National Stadium, Lagos on a hunger strike to protest the unwholesome trend. Despite this the situation continues unabated.

One other area that appears to be experiencing the ravages of piracy, is in the intellectual realm. Just as cds can be purchased at ridiculous prices, so also are books. A visit to a prominent book store beside Wuse market and a subse-

“ There is a preponderance of opinion could be a catalyst for economic reform to generate more revenue in the exploi

hard nut



counterfeit or sold illegally.

quent enquiry, revealed that a copy of 'Things Fall Apart' by Chinua Achebe after much strenuous haggling goes for N1,000. The same book displayed on the ground could be purchased right in front of Federal Secretariat for a token of N300. However this time around, it is easily discovered that the copy sold at a lower price is of inferior print, and has obviously been reprinted without due approval. The same goes for other publications which can be gotten at ridiculously low prices.

In places like under the Nyanya bridge, Mararaba and even at the Berger bus stop, merchants of novels by prominent Nigerian writers and mostly foreign ones, can be bought at the rate of N200 each. A respondent, George Emene, confided in this reporter that he is a novel addict, and makes it a point of duty to buy these novels consistently, due to their affordability. 'Although most of them are old copies of novels, but at times you still find new ones, which makes you wonder where they get these novels that

make it easy for them to sell at such low prices,' he wonders.

Karen Burrell, a US department of commerce representative who recently visited the country, pointed out that counterfeit goods – including music, movies, electronic goods, food stuffs, automotive parts and pharmaceuticals, among many other things – account for 7 per cent of all global trade. This equated to almost \$350 billion in lost revenues and millions of jobs gone, wanting worldwide.

'We estimate that Nigeria is the largest market in Africa for goods that infringe IP rights. Around 80% of the international music CDs available here are pirated; even the local music industry sees 40% of its products being copied, counterfeited or sold illegally,' she said.

The Director General, Nigeria Copyright Commission, NCC, Federal Secretariat, could not be reached for comments, but a source at the commission says that the problem is a great one which has been on for a long time, and would ultimately take a while before a concrete solution is

found. She noted that the commission was still carrying out its in house program at addressing the problem. 'Strategic Action Against Piracy, STRAP which was introduced by The Nigerian Copyright Commission as the national anti-piracy campaign for effective protection against piracy and all forms of intellectual property theft was launched on May 3 2005 by former President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. The campaign is conceived as the Commission's main enforcement platform to bring about a drastic reduction in the level of piracy and other forms of copyright abuses in Nigeria.'

She adds: 'the aim of STRAP is multi pronged part of which is to combat all forms of piracy of music, film, software, books and all other protected works. It also desires to create a conducive environment for copyright protection for all categories of works and to empower local industries, create opportunities for legitimate distribution of protected works and equally attract foreign investment. This can be achieved through a sustained campaign, in order to restore the image of Nigeria as a country that upholds the ideals of creativity'

Is the agency succeeding in its mission? 'Mass Enlightenment of Nigerians is going on concerning the ills of piracy. We try to inform and educate the public on the scourge of piracy, increase copyright awareness, and the need to respect creativity through integrated media campaign. We also carry out enforcement measures in accordance with the powers of the Commission under the Copyright Act through anti-piracy raids, destruction and seizure of pirated works and the arrest and prosecution of offenders,' she avers.

Uche Nwokocha, an author notes: 'as big as the potentials of Intellectual Property Rights operation in Africa is, piracy and counterfeiting have become the factor frustrating its development. Sub-Sahara Africa is indeed a big market with so much potential for growth. The region has not been able to achieve maximum potential due to acts of piracy and counterfeiting. Nigeria remains a gateway to the rest of the region for counterfeit products and fake goods are constantly being offered alongside genuine goods to unsuspecting and undiscerning consumers.'

The author points out a dismal trend: 'the piracy laws of Nigeria for instance do not provide for adequate enforcement of the rights of an owner of intellectual property. The penalty for infringement, especially piracy and counterfeiting, is not sufficient to deter would-be offenders. The only remedy for an owner is civil action in court, there is no provision in the law for criminal prosecution except in the area of copyright where the owner can institute a criminal action thorough the NCC. This is sad.'

Sunday Osayintuyi, media director of Yemi Media, an anti piracy/entertainment outfit agrees whole heartedly when he says 'The intellectual property system is the only way of protecting the creativity of authors and ensuring that the nation's intellectual treasures, and the resulting economic derivation, are better secured. Lack of adequate protection over time, has resulted in direct economic loss to right owners while government is denied revenue from legitimate products. This is in addition to the obvious moral and ethical reasons against unjust enrichment, intellectual theft and fraudulent claims that characterize piracy and other intellectual property abuses.' He gives a panacea: 'There is a preponderance of opinion amongst experts that a modern and well managed copyright system could be a catalyst for economic reform. With a huge population of over 140 million people, Nigeria is likely to generate more revenue in the exploitation of its copyright based industry.'

Ben Franklin, an astute judge of human character, may not have had the world's most populous black nation in mind when he once stated, "that if a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest" For Nigerian artistes this assertion may not be entirely true, going by the grave injuries intellectual pirates continue to inflict on them on a daily basis.

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Business

FG yet to pay marketers N41bn oil subsidy

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal government may have failed in the payment of N4bn oil subsidy it promised petroleum marketers in the country. The N4bn represents the remainder of the N73.4bn government owe marketers for the second quarter of last year. N32.4bn initial payment of the subsidy was effected last week.

Marketers, who spoke with *Daily Trust* as at 4pm yesterday, said they have not gotten the payment and unsure that the balance of the oil subsidy would be paid before the close of work.

A marketer, who claimed anonymity said: "As I am talking to you, the N 4bn government promised to pay us today has not been effected. I equally have not gotten any clue from other marketers regarding the payment."

Executive Secretary of Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria [MOMAN] Mr. Obafemi Olawore did not pick several calls to his phone. He also did not respond to our text messages as at press time.

But Mr Abiodun Ibikunle, the Executive Secretary, Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), told our corre-

spondent as at 2:30pm yesterday that the agency would effect the payment. He said it is unfair on the part of some marketers to insinuate that the government would not pay the money as promised having paid the previous one.

According to him, the Federal government is desirous of encouraging distribution of fuel to the nooks and crannies of the country in order to check the spate of product scarcity which has almost paralyzed business activities. He explained that this development informed the payment of the outstanding debt owed oil marketers in the country.

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we're still talking business

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Business

Okereke-Onyiuke quits Nov 7

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Director General of Nigerian stock Exchange (NSE) Ndi Okereke-Onyiuke said yesterday that she would be retiring from the

exchange on November 7, 2010 when she clocks 60 years, despite pressure from other stakeholders to continue.

Speaking in Lagos while reviewing the performance

of the market in 2009 and outlook for 2010, Okereke-Onyiuke said the decision to retire at 60 was personal and that she would not stay a day longer in office, adding that though she had

made the decision known to the NSE council about the restructuring programme and her decision to retire, the next announcement would be made by the council.

"As I said in January 2009, I have not changed my mind. I want to retire early so that I can have time for other things. Since 1997, I have never gone on vacation for one week. My decision is voluntary, something personal to me. I don't want to stay beyond my retirement age", she said.

She said the era of bearish trend in the market is over as foreign investors who had shunned assets considered risky have started returning to the market, adding that local investors are also returning to the market as serious attention is now paid to risk management, corporate governance in the financial sector.

Okereke-Onyiuke said despite price decline and the shunning of risky investment, foreign investors continue to show confidence in the Nigerian economy.

"Following modest recoveries in their home markets, some of our erstwhile foreign investors returned while new ones sought opportunities, considering the key attributes of high returns, liquidity and safety of investments. Despite the global recession, our market remain attractive to foreign investors and portfolio managers seeking cheap equities

and high yielding bonds", she said.

She said 20 companies emerged most capitalised companies in the market with First Bank of Nigeria leading with N407.54 billion, Nigerian Breweries N401 billion, Zenith bank Plc N341.6 billion, Guaranty Trust Bank N289.13 billion, UBA Plc N232.81 billion, Guinness Nigeria Plc N188.05 billion, Dangote Sugar Refinery N181.2 billion, Benue Cement Company N168.41 billion, Nestle Nigeria Plc N158.2 billion, Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc N140.1 billion, Ecobank Transnational N140.1 billion.

Others are, Access bank with N124.92 billion, FCMB N116.5 billion, Diamond bank N107.12 billion, Union bank N81.1 billion, Ecobank Nigeria N76.73 billion

She said the companies accounted for 69.5 per cent of the equity market capitalisation and 49.4 per cent of the total market capitalisation of the exchange

The DG said statistics available shows that purchases by foreign investors during 2009 was in excess of N214.741 billion, representing 31.32 per cent of the aggregate turnover, against N153.483 billion recorded in 2008 while total sale (outflow) during the year were in excess of N195.583 billion, culminating in a net inflow of N19.158 billion, a reversal of the net outflow of N480 billion in 2008.

Okereke-Onyiuke said the market lost N4.533 tril-

lion at the end of trading in 2009. The total market value of 266 securities listed on the exchange dropped by 26.5 per cent from N9.563 trillion to stand at N7.03 trillion at the end of 2009 while market capitalisation of the 216 listed equities accounted for N5 trillion or 71.04 per cent of the aggregate market capitalisation.

She attributed the decline in market capitalisation to equity price losses and the delisting of 64 securities- 11 equities and 53 fixed income securities adding that market capitalisation had equally in 2008 declined by 28.1 per cent.

On the demutualisation of the share certificate, Okereke-Onyiuke said the process has been put on hold pending the recovery of the market, adding that investors as well as shareholders could only derive maximum benefit from the process when the market has metamorphosed into the most efficient and agile entity

"Investors should also be advised not to permit the on-going market corrections becloud their judgement on the myriads of opportunities available in the capital market. Investors should work with duly licensed market operators to identify genuine opportunities to make good investments. As equities becomes cheaper. It presents a great opportunity to maximise returns when the market stabilises again and assumes a bullish trend", she said.



NDI Okereke-Onyiuke

NITEL workers picket BPE office over unpaid salaries

By Yunus Abdulhamid

AGGRIEVED workers of the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and its mobile arm, MTEL, returned to picket the Bureau of Public Enterprises' (BPE) office yesterday to press home their demand of payment of over 18 months salaries owed them.

About one hundred of the workers who came from many states of the federation converged at the BPE office, staging a blockade to disallow staff of the agency from accessing the office.

In November last year, the National Privatisation

Council (NCP) which is chaired by Vice President Goodluck Jonathan approved the five months payment to the staff out of the 17 months owed them then. This was to cover the period the federal government had controlled the once vibrant telecom firm after revoking its sale to Transcorp on June 1, 2009.

BPE spokesman Mr Chigbo Anichebe had told Daily Trust that: "The NCP approved that N3 billion be borrowed from the accounts of NITEL Pension Fund in Liquidation to pay five months salary of workers of the Nigeria Telecommunications Plc (NITEL)

and rent for the offices of NITEL and its mobile arm, M-tel."

After almost a weeklong protest in December by NITEL staff, the BPE DG had gave his words to them that the payment was going to be paid in tranches as approved by the NCP. One month was to be paid in November, two in December, and balance of two in January.

E-Amin Abdullahi, one of the three ad-hoc officials representing the staff who had a meeting with the BPE in December said till now, only one month has been paid which necessitated their return to BPE yester-

day.

At the renewed effort to get their salaries paid yesterday, e-Amin said the BPE admitted failure on their part for not making the payment as promised and that the DG once again asked for time to sort things out, having had a meeting with the Vice President last week.

One Mr Ajadi is said to be the liquidator of the company and was mandated to make the payment but has failed so far. All effort to reach the BPE spokesman, Mr Chigbo Anichebe yesterday proved abortive as he did not return the call placed to him before press time.

Nigeria loses 40% agric produce to pest

By Tina A. Hassan

THE Federal Government has declared war on the threat of food insecurity posed to the nation by the invasion of trans-boundary pest across twelve frontline states.

The twelve states worst hit by these pests are: Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Borno, Jigawa, Yobe, Sokoto and Bauchi.

Others are: Taraba, Zamfara, Gombe and Adamawa states, all located within the North West, North East and the North Central region.

The Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Sayyadi Abba Ruma said the destruction of food produce by pests like quela locust and grasshoppers has raised concerned over food self insufficiency that is why there is need for stakeholders to come together.

Speaking at a One-Day Consultative Interaction with representatives of the states and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector, the Minister stressed the need for a joint strategy to control trans-boundary pest in the affected areas across Nigeria.

He said there is need for a synergized effort in order to get the best result in the control of pest to reduce the over 40 percent loss in farm produce, especially cereals due to trans-boundary pest.

The Federal Government also said the reason why previous interventions yielded little result is because chemicals that are spread locally are not harmonized and this has led to re-infection of already treated regions.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (H)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	0.56	41,800	22,572.00
SECTOR Totals	3		41,800	22,572.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC	12	0.66	1,845,000	1,217,700.00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	3	0.70	236,640	165,648.00
PRESCO PLC	2	5.60	43,400	231,160.00
SECTOR Totals	17		2,125,040	1,614,508.00
AIR SERVICES				
AIR/SERVICES & LOGIST. PLC	9	2.44	510,826	1,242,153.44
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	77	8.50	1,334,924	11,308,743.49
SECTOR Totals	86		1,845,750	12,550,896.93
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	33	0.50	1,864,773	932,586.50
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	3	3.06	90,440	276,746.40
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	10	6.27	109,540	675,815.03
SECTOR Totals	46		2,064,753	1,885,147.93
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	222	7.90	9,534,490	76,339,674.90
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	134	3.02	9,840,169	29,948,260.04
DIAMOND BANK PLC	78	7.87	7,961,595	62,543,576.19
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	10	10.10	30,830	295,968.00
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	56	7.50	1,369,885	10,253,134.24
FIDELITY BANK PLC	151	2.70	10,639,662	28,460,756.44
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	983	15.93	14,081,335	223,814,099.73
FINBANK PLC	11	0.64	479,354	306,786.56
GTBANK PLC	336	16.90	13,023,431	218,349,784.07
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	41	7.60	1,456,360	10,929,472.40
INTERCONT.L BANK PLC.	37	2.08	1,223,072	2,543,989.76
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	67	2.34	7,820,371	18,299,668.14
BANK PHB PLC	16	1.81	1,141,595	2,066,286.95
SKYE BANK PLC.	145	5.87	9,611,406	55,792,058.69
SPRING BANK PLC	5	0.73	14,991	11,393.16
STERLING BANK PLC	87	1.36	6,812,757	9,218,057.57
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	337	11.50	13,288,650	153,832,917.52
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	204	6.60	5,119,654	32,936,021.40
UNITYBANK PLC	58	1.01	12,403,902	12,527,633.02
WEMA BANK PLC	19	1.21	1,495,307	1,809,321.47
ZENITH BANK PLC	282	15.88	12,336,034	198,128,956.77
SECTOR Totals	3,279		139,684,850	1,148,407,817.02
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	59	13.30	549,914	7,319,487.95
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	39	46.90	370,871	17,534,311.15
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	46	14.14	1,166,338	16,360,212.05
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	55	30.00	761,650	22,900,519.43
SECTOR Totals	199		2,848,773	64,114,530.58
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	1	3.20	1,048	3,521.28
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	6	28.00	26,538	741,368.60
DN MEYER PLC	2	5.39	10,500	53,865.00
I. P.W. A. PLC	1	1.38	14,500	19,140.00
NIG.-GERMAN CHEM. PLC	1	15.04	1,000	14,290.00
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1	13.40	100	1,273.00
SECTOR Totals	12		53,686	833,457.88
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	4	0.73	131,300	95,849.00
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	2	0.50	600,000	300,000.00
NAT. SPORTS LOTTERY PLC	1	3.94	4,000	15,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	20	2.62	459,774	1,198,939.22
SECTOR Totals	27		1,195,074	1,609,788.22
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIP.				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	2	8.51	10,000	80,900.00
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	22	0.54	1,299,137	701,533.98
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.84	7,500	13,125.00
SECTOR Totals	25		1,316,637	795,558.98
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	14	2.46	757,245	1,822,557.47
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	14.13	2,000	26,860.00
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	67	26.00	1,341,072	54,779,445.48
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.81	1,000	8,370.00
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	53	0.57	8,810,435	4,919,871.28
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	48	38.30	319,082	12,234,870.76
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	67	23.00	519,850	12,038,520.00
SECTOR Totals	251		11,750,684	65,830,494.99
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	157	4.50	5,530,228	24,497,064.02
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	67	29.40	2,015,799	57,965,417.60
MULTIV. RESOURCES PLC	6	0.50	80,045,500	40,022,750.00
SECTOR Totals	225		87,591,027	122,485,231.62
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	15	3.63	163,250	595,658.50
INTERLINKED TECHN. PLC	1	5.15	100	490.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	1	0.97	200	194.00
SECTOR Totals	17		163,550	596,342.50
FOOD/BEVER. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	11	29.40	10,765	313,727.63
BIG TREAT PLC	11	0.85	1,632,203	1,387,372.55
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	32	11.73	602,030	7,061,811.90
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	307	13.83	2,227,077	30,477,491.50

What is
Common
Shares or
Common
Stock

Securities
that repre-
sent part
ownership in
a company
and generally
carry voting
privileges.
Common
shareholders
may be paid
dividends,
but only after
preferred
sharehold-
ers are paid.
Common
sharehold-
ers are last
in line after
creditors,
debt holders
and preferred
shareholders
to claim any
of a com-
pany's assets
in the event
of liquidation.

Google

DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	153	14.99	6,362,376	95,003,348.89
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	66	42.99	475,674	19,600,847.09
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	14	8.49	109,070	926,092.00
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	37	6.07	718,066	4,358,660.62
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	17	23.64	182,896	4,466,646.90
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	42	264.01	113,987	30,097,080.26
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	8	22.94	22,197	495,294.60
TANTALIZERS PLC	48	0.97	12,418,401	12,043,348.97
UTC NIGERIA PLC	14	0.90	142,079	130,899.50
SECTOR Totals	760		25,016,821	206,362,622.41
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	4	1.00	17,036	17,036.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	31	2.00	961,300	1,931,794.24
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	25	23.52	325,230	7,644,957.60
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	2	4.46	12,800	59,904.00
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	13	1.55	97,124	154,159.22
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	24	0.66	575,150	385,561.50
SECTOR Totals	99		1,988,640	10,193,412.56
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	6	1.50	23,484,463	35,091,849.87
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	11	1.03	944,003	972,323.09
SECTOR Totals	17		24,428,466	36,064,172.96
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUM. EXTRUSION IND. PLC	1	18.04	100	1,239.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	4	0.50	59,389	29,654.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	35	5.53	295,395	1,627,665.91
SECTOR Totals	40		354,884	1,658,559.41
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	62	0.76	9,982,512	7,584,459.12
IHS NIGERIA PLC	2	4.24	300	1,209.00
STARCOMMS PLC	17	2.08	7,308,150	15,200,952.00
SECTOR Totals	81		17,290,962	22,786,620.12
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	91	0.91	4,226,988	3,823,753.89
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	15	1.05	8,404,954	8,899,251.24
C/STONE INS. CO. PLC.	8	0.55	191,600	105,954.00
CUST. AND ALL. INS. PLC	35	2.92	789,427	2,320,445.94
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	70,000	35,000.00
GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	27,000	13,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	5	0.79	1,153,500	911,265.00
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	33	2.20	3,035,040	6,632,261.50
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	3	0.50	48,400	24,200.00
CONS. HALL. INSUR. PLC	4	0.50	29,800	14,900.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	52	0.65	7,518,037	4,956,660.10
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	46	0.58	4,109,327	2,351,818.34
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	11	0.50	2,409,430	1,204,715.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	7	0.50	188,000	94,000.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	1	0.64	30,000	19,200.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	32	0.57	3,072,060	1,675,511.90
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	10	0.97	1,008,000	977,680.00
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	1.49	20,000	28,400.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	2	3.99	20,200	76,798.00
SOV. TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	2,000	1,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	6	1.14	22,500	24,525.00
STAND. ALL. INSUR. PLC	28	0.72	4,335,170	3,116,304.40
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	16	0.95	1,603,623	1,523,441.85
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	1.87	60,000	112,200.00
UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	37,980	18,990.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	22	1.00	1,296,271	1,322,415.65
SECTOR Totals	439		43,709,311	40,284,191.81
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	17	0.54	319,000	172,260.00
SECTOR Totals	17		319,000	172,260.00
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	1	1.43	1,000	1,360.00
NIG. ENERGY SECTOR FUND	1	552.20	92	48,262.28
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	9	0.57	1,002,702	571,540.14
SECTOR Totals	11		1,003,794	621,162.42
PACKAGING				
AVON C/CAPS & CONT. PLC.	1	7.65	3,000	21,810.00
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	192	1.78	837,780	1,491,248.40
GREIF NIGERIA PLC	2	15.03	2,100	29,988.00
SECTOR Totals	195		842,880	1,543,046.40
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	79	36.15	418,949	14,947,326.40
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	5	2.41	34,945	80,024.05
CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	6	69.79	14,257	999,612.26
CONOIL PLC	44	33.57	555,838	18,659,481.66
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	54	6.32	801,680	5,066,301.72
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	16	99.95	34,004	3,377,267.35
OANDO PLC	18	93.99	7,479	702,951.21
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	13	150.00	21,276	3,281,987.00
SECTOR Totals	235		1,888,428	47,114,951.65
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	13	21.50	153,000	3,201,518.50
SECTOR Totals	13		153,000	3,201,518.50
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP	37	15.00	1,856,231	28,066,404.00
SECTOR Totals	37		1,856,231	28,066,404.00
OVERALL Totals	6,743		406,237,865	2,134,500,546.93

GAINERS

NESTLE FLOURMILL	12.57
NB	2.04
CONOIL	2.00
	1.59

LOSERS

ASHAKACEM	0.45
DANGSUGAR	0.16
INCAR	0.16
INTBREW	0.12



AREWA HOUSE

CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH,
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, KADUNA

NINTH ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE IN HONOUR OF SIR AHMADU BELLO, THE SARDAUNA OF SOKOTO

DAY ONE: THURSDAYS 14TH JANUARY, 2010

PRAYERS AND EXHIBITION

Prayers/Visit to the tomb of late Sir Ahmadu Bello, The Saradauna of Sokoto and the Premier of the former Northern Region of Nigeria- Sultan's House, Unguwan Sarki, Kaduna.

Exhibition at the Central Gallery of Arewa House Museum, Kaduna - Display of the late Premier's personal effects and other relevant historical materials.

DAY TWO: FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY, 2010

TOPIC: MEMORIAL LECTURE

'The State of the Economy and the Future of Nigeria' To be delivered by Professor Ango Abdullahi, CON, Magajin Rafin Zazzau.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION :

His Excellency, Dr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, The Executive Governor of Lagos State.

CHIEF HOST:

His Excellency, Alhaji Muhammadu Namadi Sambo, FNIA, The Executive Governor of Kaduna State.

HOST:

Prof Aliyu Mohammed the Ag. Vice - Chancellor Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

REDEMPTION OF 4TH FGN BOND 2010 SERIES 1

THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA ANNOUNCES THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 4TH FGN BOND 2010 SERIES 1 ISSUED ON 26TH JANUARY, 2007 WILL BE REPAYED IN FULL ON 26TH JANUARY, 2010. ALSO THE LAST HALF YEARLY INTEREST WILL BE PAID ON THAT DATE.

BOND HOLDERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED FROM THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA THE 'INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS', ARE HEREBY ADVISED TO WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO SENIOR MANAGER, ISSUES OFFICE, CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA, TINUBU SQUARE, PRIVATE MAIL BAG 12194, LAGOS.

CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA,
TINUBU SQUARE,
LAGOS.



EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading UN organization in Reproductive Health and Population and Development in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and other partners, is recruiting personnel for the position of **TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, NATIONAL OBSTETRICS FISTULA CENTER KWALI, ABUJA**

Terms of Reference

Project Type: Construction of Freestanding Fistula Treatment, Training and Research Center in Abuja on a land donated by the Government in Kwali Area Council, Federal Capital Territory

1. BACKGROUND

UNFPA, as part of her Global End Fistula Campaign launched in 2003 secured a grant from the Japanese Human Security Fund to establish a Free Standing Fistula Treatment, Training and Research Center in Nigeria. This initiative is collaboration between Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) and Partners. The FMOH constituted a committee consisting of representatives from, FMOH, FMH & UD (Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development), FCT Administration, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), UNFPA, NGOs and individuals in Nigeria, as the Committee of Stakeholders (COSH), and designated to oversee the overall planning and implementation of this project.

In support of the project, the Government of Nigeria, generously donated a 10 hectare piece of land in the Kwali Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory for the construction of the center

UNFPA requires the services of a construction consultant to provide technical assistance to UNFPA's support to the diverse construction needs/requirements of the Abuja Fistula Center. He/she will provide full-time services for a period of 6 months and subsequently at 50% time for a period of 3 months. Therefore the services of the Consultant would be retained for a period of 9 months.

2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT

The Consultant which will be contracted for this purpose shall manage, monitor and oversee the construction of the Abuja Fistula Centre, with the end in view of ensuring the highest level of satisfaction among the Stakeholders in the design and construction of the center.

Specifically, the Consultant shall undertake the following tasks:

Planning Stage

- Review submissions of the retained construction firm and advise on a realistic timetable and chart of the detailed activities to be undertaken, including the information/data requirements and possibly requiring only reasonable but least logistical/administrative support;
- Consult and discuss with FMOH and COSH to determine their space requirements using national Standard guidelines, while taking into consideration the current, short-term and long-term projected needs of the center;
- Review and provide technical advice to UNFPA on the various options for the architectural designs and plans, technical drawings and bills of materials that are most appropriate to the needs and requirements of center, based on the result of the consultation/discussion with COSH;
- Provide support to the revision of the outputs generated from the above mentioned activities as may be determined and recommended by the UNFPA, FMOH and COSH, while providing advisory services on the feasibility and implications of the recommendations against cost, quality standards, and other technical considerations.

Pre-Construction Stage-FMOH

Upon finalization of the plan and its acceptance by the FMOH, COSH for and in line with FMOH tendering process of competitive selection of the contractor(s) who will then implement the plan(s) (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor")- The Consultant shall support FMOH/COSH by providing the following services:

- Assist in the development of the TOR as they affect but not limited to documents (drawings, specifications and bills of quantities) which will be the basis for the competitive selection of the most ideal contractor who will implement the design and approved by the FMOH;
- Provide support to ensure all appropriate documentation to ensure that all necessary building permits are obtained.
- Technically support the revision of the construction documents based on consolidated inputs/recommendations of FMOH/UNFPA while providing advisory services on the feasibility and implications of the recommendations against cost, quality standards, and other technical considerations; and
- Backstop and provide technical advisory support to FMOH/ COSH in the conduct of the competitive bidding process by attending to pre-bid conference,

bid evaluation sessions, and negotiation meetings with the prospective contractors.

Construction Stage

During the implementation of the plans, the Consultant shall perform the following tasks:

- Directly monitor the Contractor and oversee the detailed progression of the works in process;
- Generate, consolidate and provide the Contractor with all the necessary information required to complete the implementation works, in consultation and by closely coordinating with the COSH;
- Regularly advise, update and recommend to the contractor and other parties involved of the changes/modifications on the plan or other documents affecting the implementation and completion of the works;
- Monitor closely the compliance of the contractor and other third parties to the contracted obligations including other special instructions and requirements as may be reasonably agreed upon by the COSH, report any violations thereof, and negotiate with the contractor as may be necessary, bearing constantly in mind the best interest of the COSH; and
- Ensure that all health and safety concerns are fully met during the construction phase
- Review and certify the "as built" drawings at the end of the construction Advise FMOH, UNFPA/Certify all progress reports and requests for payment

Recurring Tasks

The Consultant should be prepared to undertake the following administrative but foreseen as recurring responsibilities throughout the engagement:

- Undertake all other necessary works that may be determined in ensuring the safety, efficiency and affectivity of the entire proper relocation planning and implementation process.
- Participate on behalf of UNFPA in technical committee meetings as they concern the construction process.
- Provide regular progress report to UNFPA on the construction process making recommendations to deliver the output of the project.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

The Consultant shall be under the overall direction and immediate guidance of the UNFPA Representative, and is expected to regularly coordinate and report to UNFPA or his alternate designated for this activity.

The Consultant is expected to provide comprehensive updates and submit report to UNFPA anytime during the engagement or as may be requested. All outputs arising from this engagement shall be subject to the approval of the UNFPA. The evaluation of the overall performance of the Consultant, which will be prepared upon the completion of the work, shall also be accomplished by the UNFPA based on the inputs of the FMOH.

4. DURATION OF CONTRACT

The contract duration shall be for an estimated total period of nine (9) months at 100% time for six (6) months and 50% time for 3 (three) months.

5. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The Consultant should have the following minimum qualifications:

- Minimum of Post-Graduate Degree in Civil Engineering, Project Management or other related fields.
- Proven track record in undertaking works of similar nature during the last ten (10) years;
- Professional expertise and excellent background in project management, civil works planning, interior and engineering designs, health facility documentations, construction systems and procedures, and latest trends in the industry;
- Experienced in building and construction audit (pre-lease/construction evaluation and analysis, checking the necessary permits for construction and relocation, etc.);
- Registration with the appropriate regulatory authorities in Nigeria
- Hands-on exposure in monitoring actual fit-out construction of hospital and health facilities; and
- Outstanding interpersonal skills/people skills, relationship management and client service orientation.

6. METHOD OF APPLICATION

All applications should include functional e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers, letter of application and detailed curriculum vitae (CV), **attached as one file in MS WORD format only.** Applications should be addressed to **The UNFPA Resident Representative, Abuja** and forwarded to e-mail address at **vacancypdu.ng@unfpa.org** latest by **28 January, 2010.**



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the leading UN organization in Reproductive Health and Population and Development, is recruiting personnel for the following positions in Sokoto Zonal Office, Sokoto:

1. National Programme Analyst, Population and Development (P & D) - NOB (ICS 09)
2. National Programme Analyst, Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) - NOB (ICS 09)
3. National Programme Analyst, Gender - NOB (ICS 09)

1. National Programme Analyst (Population & Development)

Post Level: NOB (ICS 09)
Type of Contract: Service Contract
Duty Post: Sokoto Zonal Office, Sokoto
Duration: One (1) Year (renewable but subject to satisfactory performance)

Duties and responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the Resident Representative and the direct supervision of the Zonal Team Leader, Sokoto Zonal Office, the National Programme Analyst (Population and Development) will undertake the following duties:

- Provides Technical Assistance in the states under the zonal office within the framework of agreed work plans for successful implementation of the population and development component of the UNFPA Country Programme.
- Advises on programme and project implementation, guiding and orienting executing agencies and project personnel and introducing effective modalities and practices of implementation.
- Supports capacity building for staff in relevant government, NGO and CSO institutions in population and development.
- Advises and reports on achievement of programme and project results, proactively measuring substantive progress and the effective utilization of financial and human project resources using appropriate monitoring and measuring mechanisms and tools.
- Creates and documents knowledge by evaluating programmes, projects and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices and replicable strategies and approaches and actively shares and applies this knowledge. Creates mechanisms to collect and share knowledge.
- Analyzes population and development issues in states under the zonal office to provide substantive inputs to institutional responses and advocacy strategies taking into account political and social sensitivities.
- Conducts substantive policy/advocacy dialogue with State Government counterparts to facilitate the incorporation of UNFPA's Programme priorities and ICPD agenda into state plans and strategies.
- Promotes a results based approach and integrates innovative policies and strategies into the design and formulation of country programme action plan based on strategic priorities and responsive to the Government/state's needs in the areas of RH, P & D and Gender.
- In collaboration with State Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contributes to collect and maintain data base for evidence based programming, monitoring, reporting and evaluation and build the capacity of programme managers to that effect.
- In collaboration with State Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme action plan in line with State Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures.
- Analyzes and reports on programme and project progress in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools.
- Expedites and coordinates project implementation, establishes collaborative relationships with executing agencies, experts, government counterparts and other UN agencies; and facilitates timely and efficient delivery of project inputs in addition to addressing training needs of project personnel.
- Assists advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Zonal Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, donor profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Conducts substantive policy/advocacy dialogue with Government counterparts to facilitate the incorporation of UNFPA's Programme priorities and ICPD agenda into state plans and strategies.
- Mobilizes government counterpart obligations and explore opportunities for additional resources in support of Population and Development initiatives in the states under the zonal office.
- Promote UNFPA visibility in the states under the zonal office.
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the Resident Representative and/or Zonal Team Leader.

Qualifications and Experience

The Ideal Candidate should

- ❖ Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- ❖ Have a Master's degree in population, demography and/or other related social science field.
- ❖ Possess professional experience of a minimum of 10 years preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector
- ❖ Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- ❖ Be familiar with issues on population, reproductive health, gender and youth.
- ❖ Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.

2. NATIONAL PROGRAMME ANALYST (REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COMMODITY SECURITY (RHCS))

Type of Contract: Service Contract
Post level: NOB
Duty Post: Sokoto Zonal Office, Sokoto
Duration: One (1) Year (renewable but subject to satisfactory performance)

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the Resident Representative and the direct supervision of the Zonal Team Leader, Sokoto Zonal Office, the National Programme Analyst (RHCS) will undertake the following duties:

- Provide technical support to ensure the institutionalization of a sustainable national RH commodity supply and logistic management system.
- Contribute to the development and formulation of national policy and plan of action in the areas of RHCS.
- Provide overall guidance required to strengthen and build national capacity in the use of management information to forecast the required contraceptives for the national in general and the public sector in particular.
- Provide guidance in the formulation and institutionalization of a competitive and transparent contraceptive procurement system and plan.

- Provide strategic national technical guidance in the development of a computerized functional management information system for the overall management of RHCS in Sokoto Zonal Office.
- Provide evidence-based information for advocacy contraceptive supplies and logistic management in the context of RHCS.
- Provide technical oversight for the development and implementation of a monitoring and supervision plan for the RHCS in Nigeria.
- Facilitate effective partnerships for collaboration and dialogue on RHCS among donors, civil society organizations and government.
- Facilitate the leveraging of resources to support the national contraceptive supply and logistic management system.
- Perform any other tasks as assigned by the UNFPA Representative or Deputy Representative.

Minimum Qualification and Experience:

The Ideal Candidate should

- ❖ Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- ❖ Have a Post-graduate degree or equivalent in the field of Social Sciences, Medicine/Public Health or in a related field with experience in the area of Contraceptive Logistic Management.
- ❖ Possess professional experience of a minimum of 10 years in reproductive health/family planning or related work of which at least 5 should be in the area of RHCS Logistic management.
- ❖ Be Familiar with the workings of the UN and in particular UNFPA's policies and procedure would be an added advantage
- ❖ Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- ❖ Be familiar with issues on population, reproductive health, gender and youth.
- ❖ Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.

3. National Programme Analyst (Gender) - 1 Post

Post Level: NOB (ICS 9)
Type of Contract: Service Contract
Duty Post: Sokoto Zonal office, Sokoto
Duration: One (1) Year (renewable but subject to satisfactory performance)

Duties and responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the Resident Representative and the direct supervision of the Zonal Head, Sokoto Zonal Office, the National Programme Analyst, Gender will undertake the following duties:

- Provide Technical Assistance in the states under the zonal office within the framework of agreed work plans for successful implementation of the gender equality component of the Country Programme.
- Facilitate building of appropriate technical capacity in gender analysis and mainstreaming in government programmes and other counterparts within the states under the zone.
- In collaboration with State Government counterparts, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to integrate gender dimensions in UNFPA programming, monitoring and evaluation and ensures gender equity and equality in addressing population issues.
- Help create and document knowledge about current and emerging gender issues, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies, approaches, and ongoing experience for lessons learned, best practices, and shares with the zonal team for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies.
- Assist in advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Zonal Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, donor profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Create and deliver effective evidence-based advocacy messages to promote UNFPA's programme goals taking into account political and social sensitivities
- Mobilize government counterpart obligations and explore opportunities for additional resources in support of Gender initiatives in the states under the zonal office.
- Promote UNFPA visibility in the states under the zonal office.
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by Resident Representative and/or Zonal Head.

Qualifications and Experience

The Ideal Candidate should

- ❑ Be a Nigerian National (Male or Female)
- ❑ Have a Master's degree in population, Sociology, development studies, and specialized in gender studies.
- ❑ Possess professional experience of a minimum of 10 years preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector linked to gender issues.
- ❑ Be experienced in working with government institutions and donor organizations.
- ❑ Be familiar with issues on population, reproductive health, gender and youth.
- ❑ Have a strong capability to communicate clearly and concisely in both oral and written English.

Method of Application

All applications should include functional e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers, letter of application and detailed curriculum vitae (CV), **attached as one file in MS WORD format only.** Applications should be addressed to **The UNFPA Resident Representative, Abuja** and forwarded to the under-listed e-mail addresses latest by **28 January, 2010.** Each application should clearly reflect the post to which an applicant is applying.

1. National Programme Analyst, P & D - NOB (Sokoto Zone) - should send applications to vacancypdu.ng@unfpa.org
2. National Programme Analyst, (RHCS) - NOB (ICS 09) (Sokoto Zone) - should send applications to vacancyrhu.ng@unfpa.org
3. National Programme Analyst, Gender - NOB (ICS 09) (Sokoto Zone) - should send applications to vacancygdr.ng@unfpa.org

Please note that UNFPA will respond only to those applicants in whom it has a further interest. Kindly also note that **ONLY** applications sent by e-mail will be accepted. Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

*UNFPA reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

UNFPA Because everyone counts



THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ABUJA

RETREAT FOR BOARDS OF PARASTATALS AND AGENCIES

The Federal Ministry of Finance is conducting a retreat for Boards of Parastatals and Agencies under its supervision. The retreat shall hold as follows:

Date: 14– 15th January, 2010

Venue: Asaa Pyramid Hotel, No. 13, Lafiya Road, off Independence Way, Kaduna

Time: 9.00 a.m daily

Special Guests of Honour: Dr. Mansur Muhtar OFR
Honourable Minister of Finance

Mr. Remi Babalola
Honourable Minister of State for Finance

Theme: Building the capacity of Boards of Parastatals to enhance service delivery in the financial sector.

- Objectives:**
- (i) To sensitize Board members with current public service regulations, policies and their application in Federal Government parastatals;
 - (ii) the Board members to share experiences and opinions in the financial sector as it relates to public service policies and regulations;
 - (iii) to enhance the capacity of parastatals in drawing logical conclusions in taking qualitative decisions and
 - (iv) to enable the participants to discuss and appreciate issues and challenges of attainment of the 7-point Agenda.

Dr. Ochi C. Achinivu
Permanent Secretary

DIGEST

Every hour per day watching TV 'increases risk of heart disease death by a fifth'

THE risk of dying from heart disease increases by almost a fifth from each hour of a day spent watching television, a study has suggested.

In the UK, the average person watches television for three hours a day. Photo: GETTY Every type of sedentary behaviour, such as driving and sitting at a computer, also poses significant health risks, Australian researchers concluded.

They found that people who spent more than four hours a day sitting in front of the TV were 80 per cent more likely to die from a cardiovascular related disease than those who watched less than two hours. Tracking the lifestyle habits of 8,800 adults over the past seven years, researchers also found they were also moderately more at risk of dying from cancer.

In the UK, the average person watches television for three hours a day. The study is published in this month's edition of the medical journal *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

The study's lead author Prof David Dunstan, from the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, in Victoria, said: "For many people, on a daily basis they simply shift from one chair to another - from the chair in the car to the chair in the office to the chair in front of the television.

"Even if someone has a healthy body weight, sitting for



IN the UK, the average person watches television for three hours a day.

long periods of time still has an unhealthy influence on their body sugar and blood fats."

Researchers measured participants' cholesterol and blood sugar

levels - key indicators of health - and how many hours they spent watching TV.

During the six year follow up 87 people dies from cardio-

vascular related disease and 125 died from cancer. The association held regardless of other risk factors such as smoking and high blood pressure.

Researchers advised people should avoid sitting for long periods of time to lower their risk of developing diseases.

Culled from Telegraph.

Fitness news: PE can make you fat

IF you've always blamed your reluctance to exercise on bad memories of PE class, researchers have proven you're right.

A study at the University of Alberta found that PE teachers can shape someone's enthusiasm for fitness and that cold cross-country runs or negative comments by a PE teacher can turn people off exercise for life.

Professor Billy Streaan questioned dozens of adults on their workout habits and childhood experiences of sport and those with negative memories were far more likely to be sedentary in their adult life.

In his findings, published in the journal *Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise*, one 51-year-old participant said her experience of PE lessons left

her with such antipathy towards physical activity that she was 'moved to tears' when she completed his questionnaire.



MEMORIES of PE lessons can shape your enthusiasm for exercise - for life

Professor Streaan said that minimally organised activities with few rules and no score-keeping, such as street hockey and aerobics, elicited the best memories

35 is the new 40: Economic worries bring earlier middle age

WORRIES about the economy and healthcare are pushing people into middle age earlier, making 35 the new 40, according to a new report.

While 40 was once widely considered the milestone that defined middle age, this has been lowered to 35, according to research by the Philips Center for Health and Well-Being. "Thirty five is the new 40 as Americans feel the pressures of middle age earlier than ever," the Amsterdam-based centre said in a statement. Katy Hartley, the director of the centre, which aims to improve quality of life, said stress about the economy and healthcare that you would typically associate with turning 40 is starting at a younger age. "The data suggests the new age for middle age is 35," she said in an interview.

Nearly 80 per cent of 35 year olds questioned for the Philips

Index said they were concerned about the economy, and three-quarters were also worried about healthcare. These stresses, according to the study, have contributed to an apparent early onset of middle age and the loss of five years of youth. The report showed the economy topped the list of stressors for most Americans, at 74 per cent, which was nearly double the results of a 2004 survey. A nearly equal amount said they felt positive about their overall health and well-being. But many Americans may not be realistic about their health.

Only 39 per cent of Americans consider themselves to be overweight, according to the index, while a report by the National Center for Health Statistics showed 67 per cent of Americans are overweight or obese.

Americans seem to accept

being overweight as normal.

"I think the data would support that," said Ms Hartley. Although most Americans said they were in good health, only 51 per cent said they were as fit as they could be and 66 per cent wished they exercised more. When they do get sick, more than half of the 1,503 Americans who were questioned for the index said a doctor would be their first choice for getting information, followed by the internet. "The role of doctors remains important. Fifty-three per cent of people still see their doctor as the first source of information and the second source of information is the Internet," said Ms Hartley.

But most people seek the company of family and friends to improve their health and well being, while job and salary were far less important.

Sign Language



Painful punishment.

Photo location: New York, by Aloysius de Havilland

Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

SUDOKU

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given" - these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

63

2	3		4			6		7
	9		6	8				
7				1	2			
5						1	6	
		8		3		2		
	4	7						9
				3	4			6
					7	9		3
		9			1		2	5

EASY CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- 1. Applications
- 5. Stick up
- 8. Clarinetist
- 12. Bisque, e.g.
- 13. Actress
- 14. Beach bag
- 15. Baby
- 17. Certain PCs
- 18. Harness parts
- 19. ABC Island drama
- 20. Bitter cold, as air
- 23. Ambulance worker (abbr.)
- 25. Words from
- 26. Part of a pencil
- 29. Self-
- 30. Evaluates
- 32. Kilt-wearer's accessory
- 34. Overtums
- 36. Prime
- 37. Court
- 38. Steel wool brand
- 40. Jane Austen heroine
- 43. Boys
- 45. "Runaround Sue" singer
- 46. Frozen formations
- 50. Different

- 51. Alphabet's finale
- 52. Smell like
- 53. Airplane front
- 54. Actor
- 55. Peppy

- 10. Bank machines (abbr.)
- 11. Bridge seat
- 16. Luau wear
- 20. Pres.
- 21. Spaghetti sauce brand
- 22. Mince
- 24. Moms
- 26. Pennsylvania has three
- 27. Caesar's "and others" (2 wds.)
- 28. Racetrack fence
- 30. Classic car
- 31. Turn perfume to spray
- 33. #6 on the phone
- 35. River of song
- 36. Tightwads
- 38. Run, as a color
- 39. Yank's foe
- 40. Biblical spot
- 41. Ventimiglia of "Heroes"
- 42. Model Kate
- 44. Got an "A" on a test
- 47. Agent (abbr.)
- 48. Munich's land (abbr.)
- 49. Blue above

DOWN

- 1. Ship's letters
- 2. Drunkard
- 3. Italy's cont.
- 4. Amusements
- 5. Ancient object
- 6. Pizza parlor equipment
- 7. Out of control
- 8. Clown props
- 9. Vagrant

51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15			16				17			
		18					19			
20	21	22		23	24					
25			26			27	28			
29		30	31			32	33			
	34	35				36				
37				38	39					
40	41	42		43	44					
45				46			47	48	49	
50				51			52			
53							54			

Solution to Easy Crosswords

50

M	A	P		B	L	D	G		P	I	L	E	
I	G	O		L	I	E	U		A	L	I	T	
N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L		D	E	B	S	
				T	O	D	D	L	E	R			
R	E	A	L	M					L	E	E	R	S
H	A	I	L		H	O	P	I		D	O	C	
E	S	S		M	A	N	G	E		G	P	A	
T	E	L		A	S	T	A		P	E	E	L	
T	R	E	A	D					D	A	D	D	Y
				F	E	D	O	R	A	S			
L	E	V	I		I	M	A	L	O	S	E	R	
Y	E	A	R		V	A	N	E		O	D	E	
E	R	L	E		A	R	T	S		S	T	S	

Solution to Sudoku 62

6	8	3	1	5	2	4	9	7
4	5	2	8	7	9	1	6	3
7	9	1	6	3	4	5	2	8
1	3	6	4	8	5	2	7	9
5	2	7	9	1	3	8	4	6
9	4	8	2	6	7	3	5	1
8	1	9	5	4	6	7	3	2
3	6	4	7	2	1	9	8	5
2	7	5	3	9	8	6	1	4

News Extra

Togo attack was foreseeable



TOGOLESE gendarmes carry the coffin of one of the shooting victims

Angola was stupid to hold Africa Cup of Nations games in Cabinda. But this has nothing to do with the World Cup.

By Cameron Duodu

As Malawi and Algeria took the field on Monday in the second match of the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations tournament, the stadium in Luanda was almost completely empty apart from officials and security men. That no attempt was made to entice Luanda's crowds to matches not involving the home team was symptomatic of the lack of imagination of the bureaucracies that dominate many African countries.

But the more damning act of imbecility was the decision of the Angolan government to host some of the matches in Cabinda. It is all very well to have persuaded the Chinese to build a spanking new stadium, costing millions of dollars, in Cabinda city: this was to make the political point that not all the money obtained from the oil that gushes out of the region is commandeered by the apparatchiks in Luanda for the own purposes. It was also an attempt to warn the oil companies that they should not be tempted – as a kind of insurance policy – secretly to finance some of the residual elements of the Cabinda secessionist movement that have continued to operate since the Luanda government reached a deal with the spearhead of the Cabinda separatists Flec (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda). The message was that Luanda was now in full control of the entire territory of Angola.

But the Luanda government – made up, as it is, of a coalition of

two guerrilla organisations that had been at each other's throats for decades, the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) – should have realised that elements of Flec might seize the opportunity to make their own political point. In their own long sojourn in the bush, first against the Portuguese and then against each other, they suffered often from splits and undisciplined coups de theatre precisely of the type inflicted on the Togolese players last week.

Not that the Togolese were without fault. An elementary casing of the joint that was to be their home for at least four weeks would have revealed to them that the situation in Cabinda is so dodgy that oil workers there have evolved their own rules for survival. Many spend only a few days on the rigs, then go off by private plane to Luanda, where they catch a plane to Houston, Texas for their "recreation". Such an expensive system wouldn't have been evolved for nothing.

Above all, the oil-worker community shuns like the plague the delights of nearby Brazzaville in Republic of the Congo. Yet it was there that the Togolese elected to spend their days of pre-tournament training. Brazzaville's francophone ambience was deemed preferable to the Portuguese-speaking frostiness of Cabinda. But they paid dearly for it.



SHOCKED Togo players comfort each other after the bloody attack on their bus

As might be expected, the usual anti-African crowd has been making noises, trying to use the Cabinda disaster to prejudice the chances of the World Cup tournament in South Africa succeeding. But such a comparison is woefully ignorant. Comparing South Africa to Angola, and especially Cabinda, is like comparing apples and oranges.

As Danny Jordan, head of the organising committee of the World Cup 2010 retorted when the issue of the safety of teams for the World Cup was raised with him: "Why are people suddenly applying double standards? When there are terrorist attacks in Europe, do we hear about the 2012 Olympics being under threat? No. We cannot be called to account for the security arrangements of Angola, which is far removed from South Africa."

Culled from guardian.co.uk



News Extra

Number of people killed in airline crashes soars

An increased number of people were killed in world airliner crashes last year, figures out yesterday showed.

There were 749 deaths in 2009 compared with 583 in 2008, statistics from Flight International magazine revealed.

Fatal accidents last year included the June 30 crash into the Atlantic of an Air France Airbus A330 with the loss of all 216 passengers and 12 crew.

Another bad accident last year was the July 15 crash in Iran of a Caspian Airlines Tupolev plane, in which 156 passengers and 12 crew were killed.

Flight International operations and safety editor David Learmount said the period 2000-09 saw the 'lowest accident rates in aviation history by a considerable margin'.

But he said the constant improvement in safety over the last few decades was 'now stagnating' and there had been 'virtually no improvement in safety in the 10 years from 2000 to 2009'.

Mr Learmount said that since the beginning of the 'noughties' and particularly since 2003, the number of annual fatal airline accidents almost levelled out and 2009 figures continued this trend.

He added that although it would be difficult to match the rate of safety improvement achieved a few years ago, it remained clear 'that preventable accidents are still happening, so there is plenty of room for improvement'.

These were the world airline fatal accident rates through the last decade:



A US Airways jet ditched last year in New York's Hudson River after hitting a flock of Canada geese

YEAR	FATAL ACCIDENTS	DEATHS
2000	37	1,101
2001	33	778
2002	40	1,022
2003	27	702
2004	28	466
2005	34	1,050
2006	27	863
2007	25	744
2008	34	583
2009	28	749

Meanwhile reports of airliners hitting birds and other wildlife have soared since a stricken US Airways jet ditched last year in New York's Hudson River, and the American government's tally

for the year could reach or even exceed 10,000 for the first time.

Serious accidents are climbing at an even faster rate than minor incidents.

There were at least 57 cases

in the first seven months of 2009 that caused serious damage and three in which planes and a corporate helicopter were destroyed by birds, according to an analysis by The Associated Press of the latest government's figures available. At least eight people died, and six more were hurt.

The destroyed planes include the Airbus A320 with 155 passengers and crew that went into the Hudson a year ago this week after hitting a flock of Canada geese. No lives were lost in that dramatic river landing.

But when a Sikorsky helicopter crashed en route to an oil platform last January after hitting a red-tailed hawk near Morgan City, Louisiana, the two pilots and six of seven passengers were killed. The lone survivor was critically injured.

Airports and airlines have become more diligent about reporting, said Mike Beiger, national coordinator for the airport wildlife hazards program at the Agriculture Department. But experts also say populations of large birds like Canada geese that can knock out engines on passenger jets have increased.

'Birds and planes are fighting for airspace, and it's getting increasingly crowded,' said Richard Dolbeer, an expert on bird-plane collisions who is advising the Federal Aviation Administration and the Agriculture Department.

The surge in reports for 2009 - expected to be as much as 40 percent higher once the final numbers are in - comes in spite of government concerns that disclosing details about such strikes would discourage reports by airports and airlines out of worries about lost business.

The previous high was 7,507 strikes in 2007. The government's estimate of as many as 10,000 for 2009 would represent about 27 strikes every day.



CREW collect debris from the crashed Atlantic of an Air France Airbus A330, which killed 228 people



A piece of wreckage from a Tupolev Tu-154 passenger plane lies at the site of a crash near Janatabad, 93 miles west of Tehran

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0702 8006117, 08005 6140963,
0702 8005924, 0702822271
LEKKI:
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ABUJA:
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0803 234482,
0803 4099999, 0802133888

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Senate...*

*we say **HEARTY CHEERS**
to an embodiment of
humility, hard work and
loyalty!*

Dist. Senator Abubakar Atiku BAGUDU
(Kebbi Central, PDP)

Signed:

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| 12. Abba Armia'u | 25. H.E. Bello Dantani | 38. Usman Aliero |
| 13. Senator Saminu Turaki | 26. Lawali Dakingari | |

PROPERTY

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My mission for NSE - new president

By Nasir Imam

THE newly elected President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr. Olumuyiwa Alade Ajibola has stated that his major mission would be to bring the society up to a world class professional body that is well positioned to meet the needs of the people of Nigeria.

A statement from NSE's Head of Media and Publication, Ikenna Emeka Okpani, said the new President who is billed to be inaugurated as the

27th President of the society in an investiture ceremony billed for the weekend in Abuja was speaking at Ibadan yesterday where he was among three key leaders of professional associations honoured by the Governor of Oyo state, Chief Christopher Ala-Akala.

Engr. Ajibola said no country can develop without paying attention to the study and practice of engineering and assured that the Society under him will partner with relevant institutions and the private sector in

ensuring provision of quality engineering infrastructure in the country.

"My plan for the body is to bring it up to a world class professional body, able to give its services to its people, to the government, the private sector and demonstrate the relevance of engineers to national development." He said.

For him, Nigerian would not develop to its full potentials until it is able to offer professionals opportunities to excel and contribute to the growth

of the country.

"The country must recognize its professional and give them opportunity to serve in appropriate positions where they can apply their skill" he said.

The Governor of Oyo state, Chief Aloa-Akala told the gathering that his administration decided to honour the professionals whom he said had risen to the pinnacle of their professional bodies because they were products of the state as all of them have spent all their professional lives in Ibadan.



ENGR. OLUMUYIWA ALADE AJIBOLA

Bauchi community laments bad roads

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

A community in Faggo, Shira local government area of Bauchi state has decried the poor condition of roads in the area.

A statement by the Secretary of Faggo Development Association, Alhaji Bala Mai Kifi has called on the Speaker of the Bauchi State House Assembly Abubakar Ahmad Faggo who hails from the area as well as the state government to come to the aid of the community through the construction of Zigau - Gwaram Road which has been in bad condition.

According to the statement,

Because of the poor condition of the roads most of the produce perished leading to a huge loss

the road which was constructed since the early 50's has become a dead trap adding that the community has "been doing its best to rehabilitate it to certain level but all to no avail".

The statement said that majority of the natives in the area are farmers saying that the poor condition of the road makes it difficult "for us to take our farm produce to the market, as a result most of the produce perished leading to a huge loss".

The association who also congratulated the new speaker on his new position as the speaker also appealed to Abubakar Ahmad Faggo and the state government on the need for the construction of Islamiyya School to cater for the educational needs of their children stressing that "there should be an adult literary class for the elderly too".

The statement also stressed the need for the provision of potable water in the area pointing out that such provision will go a long way in the prevention of guinea worm threats in the area adding that, "Faggo is blessed with human and natural resources, if all are explored, our town will be a model worthy of emulation".



SIBIRI-Imude Road in Ijanikin under construction by the Lagos State Government

Kwara to commence inter state boundary roads rehabilitation

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

KWARA state government has mapped out about three inter state boundary roads in the state for rehabilitation this year.

The boundary roads include those of Offa/Erin-Ile-Osun state, Omu-Aran- Ekiti state and Eruku-Kogi state.

The government also assured that the Osi-Ekiti state boundary road whose construction is about

70 percent completed would be completed this year. The state governor, Bukola Saraki said in Ilorin that he has directed the ministry of works to begin processes on the works of the roads and assured that the project would soon commence.

The Eruku-Kogi state boundary road, a federal highway, is badly damaged that motorists avoid plying it. People traveling from Kwara to Kogi or vice versa prefer to go

through the longer Ekiti state route owing to the bad state of the road.

Offa/Erin-Ile-Osun state boundary road is also badly damaged. The poor state of the road affects smooth traffic especially within Offa town.

Saraki, whose administration has made enormous efforts on road construction and rehabilitation in the state, assured that rehabilitation of the inter state boundary roads would be carried out without delay.

Karu community designs road map to devt

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RURAL development through self-help infrastructure is top on the agenda of the people of Karu community of Nasarawa State with target for socio-economic development of the area this new year.

This roadmap to development was initiated at the palace of Esu Karu, Luka Panya Baba when a delegation of prominent personalities of the area including clergies, community leaders, government officials and youth leaders paid a New Year visit to the first class chief.

The Danmasanin Karu, Silas Dachor told Daily Trust, yesterday that the visit was designed to initiate the roadmap to development of the area which has suffered backwardness in terms of infrastructural development. He said the meeting also initiated ways to give empowerment

to the youth of the area with the view to curtail the likelihood of their taking to the compensatory activities of crime.

The Danmasanin Karu said the traditional ruler; Luka Panya Baba assured his commitment and dedication to community development, as he stated that

the homage on him was a boost to his determination.

"He reminded the people of the need to maintain peace in the land and care for one another taking into cognizance of the fact that there can not be development without peace", Dachor said.

PROPERTY

FCTA to support embassies ready to develop their plots

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration has expressed its readiness to give the required support to all foreign missions that are truly ready to their plots in the Federal Capital Territory; Abuja.

FCT Minister Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero gave this assurance on Monday while receiving the British Ambassa-

dor to Nigeria, Mr. Bob Dewar who paid a courtesy visit in his official residence at Gwarinpa I District, (Life-Camp), Abuja.

The Minister remarked that the FCT Administration is prepared to assist any foreign mission in Nigeria to settle down in their permanent abode in Abuja because "we are all stakeholders in the project Abuja".

Senator Aliero noted that the

earlier revocation notice issued by the FCT Administration to all owners of undeveloped plots in the service areas of the Federal Capital City including foreign missions was informed by its desire to ensure accelerated development of the Abuja metropolis.

The Minister lamented that such undeveloped plots constitutes security threats as hood-

lums use such places to perpetuate their nefarious activities; apart from defacing the aesthetic beauty of Abuja.

He commended the British High Commission for being in the lead of the Embassies and High Commissions in the country that are now prepared to develop their embassies in Abuja.

Senator Aliero assured them of the full support of the FCT

Administration to enable them develop their properties within the shortest possible time.

Speaking earlier, the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Bob Dewar informed the Minister of the preparedness of the United Kingdom to develop their High Commission in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in compliance with the directives of the Administration.

Imo govt issues 6 month ultimatum to land allottees

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

IMO State Government have issued 6 months ultimatum to all government land allottees to under go re-certification of the land in the approved government agency or forfeit it.

The State Commissioner for Land Survey and Urban planning, Chief Levi Oguike handed than the ultimatum today at a news

briefing in Owerri. The Commissioner said that all government land allottees have between January 4th to June 30th 2010 to re-certify their certificate of occupancy at the Imo Geographical Information Service (IGIS).

Oguike advised all land tittle holders in the state to present their title document for re-certification for new title document for their own interest.

He said that the new document has appropriate security features, which include Biometric, certificate of occupancy (C of Os), Deed of Assignment and all other legal titles registered in lands and Deeds registry of the state.

He advised Imo people to also obtain the application form from the 27 Local Government Areas of the state outside the state capital, Imo state liaison offices in Abuja

and Lagos as well all branches of Bank PHB plc nation-wide.

The Commissioner urge people to as a matter of urgency to go for the re-certification now to avoid regret, warning that all title documents not re-certified before or by the 30th of June shall cease to be valid for land transaction in the state.

He stated that all application form shall be returned with a non refundable fees of N20,000, and shall

be payable to IGIS special account with Bank PHB.

He said that Government adopted the measure in order to ensure all government allotted lands are fully documented properly in the appropriate office.

According to him the steps is taking to eliminate frauds and multiple titles, and to stop some people from holding others to ransom in the state.

Gaidam's new castle causes uproar in Damaturu

From Isa Umar Gusau, Damaturu

YOBE governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam has shortly after assuming office demolished his 20 years old personal residence in Sabon Fegi, a semi densely populated area of Damaturu, bought over the houses of some close neighbours and also demolished them to create additional land before building an entirely new multi million naira imposing country home which stares every passer-by, but the house has attracted hue and cry amongst his neighbours and other citizens who raise questions over his sources of fund because the project was only began soon after Gaidam was sworn in as governor in January 2009, to replace the late Mamman Ali, Daily Trust reports.

Some loyalists of the governor, including Alhaji Mohammed Potiskum, Senior Special Assistant on Pilgrims Affairs who has been with Gaidam for about 20 years, insist that the outcry on the project (currently at completion stage) was unnecessary because it was not being executed with public funds but basically with legitimate earnings and that being a governor doesn't curtail the governor's right to build a house of his choice to live because he was a civil servant who rose through the ranks to become a permanent secretary and he received his gratuities and all entitlements, he was also a commissioner and deputy governor before he became a governor and he has all his entitlements which give him the where withal to build such a house.

Prior to 2007 and while Gaidam was deputy governor under the late Mamman Ali, the house which was known to be his personal residence, was small sized milk painted bungalow with black gate and was unno-



GOV. Gaidam's controversial castle in Sabon Fegi, Damaturu... by the right is the blue house he allegedly acquired for further expansion.

ticeably located metres away from a popular Sheikh Diyar mosque in Sabon Fegi. Investigations showed that the house used to have two units of two-bedroom flats for two of wives, a chalet for children and a one-bedroom with a store, which was served as the master chalet.

Daily Trust gathered that weeks after Gaidam became the governor of Yobe State in January, 2009, he began to demolish some of the apartments from inside while building materials were being brought and moved in for works. Many thought the governor was carrying out renovations until sometime around June, 2009 when the frontage was demolished and it became obvious that a brand new flamboyant mansion was replacing the old one.

Investigations show that Gaidam bought two houses belonging to close neighbours located behind his own house at allegedly staggering amounts which he offered to entice owners to relinquish the houses to him which they did. The bought over houses were similarly demolished to create additional space for the man-

sion. The governor's initial attempt to also buy a third house, a blue painted belonging to a police AIG which shares boundary from the right side with the mansion (when facing the mansion) was unsuccessful as the AIG was said to have resisted severe pressures to dispose his house. Recently however, the AIG who currently oversees some states in the North West; was said to have given the house to his son who got married. It was learnt that the son couldn't resist offers by the governor as the sum of sixty million was allegedly paid for the house which market value is believed to far below the offer. The house is however yet to be demolished like others while it remains in its blue colour, sharply contrasting Gaidam's mansion.

Sources told Daily Trust that some building materials including doors and windows as well as many house hold equipments were tastefully imported from abroad to fit into the elegance and presidential nature of the house. Granites and marbles were also said to have been fixed all over while two boreholes have also

been constructed with other works being carried out day and night, apparently to meet a certain deadline of completion as the governor is said to be waiting to relocate there from his official residence as deputy governor where he has remained even after becoming governor in 2009.

Our correspondent who inspected the controversial building reports that the house stands out in the entire area and has acquired large space different from what it used to be. Brand new detached apartments have been built inside with long span roofing sheets fixed atop to match the brown painting on the entirety of the buildings. A striking detached duplex has also been completed while exotic stones have been used to beautify the new fence round the large compound.

The building, which is currently at the centre of public discourse in many parts of Damaturu has already caused ill feelings amongst some residents, including some associates of Gaidam who told our correspondent that the building was enough to attract suspicion given the fact that millions were being spent by the governor just when he is serving in office as the chief accounting officer of the state. Alhaji Abbagana Tata, chairman of the main opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in the state described the project as "very shocking, suspicious and an insult to the people of Yobe state with impunity, clear disregard for conscience and public feelings and a mockery on the poverty ridden public in the state, we still cant believe it like film trick, I just cannot imagine how a sitting governor will choose to embark on such a big money consuming project in the open as soon as he takes over as governor, when every one knows he didn't have that money before he became governor".

Other respondents living in Sabon Fegi spoke along Tata's line.

For Ibrahim Wakil, a resident who deals in black marketer fuel retailing around the mansion, his concern is on the two boreholes inside the house because according to him he is surprised that while common residents lack tap water supply in the entire area, "Gaidam could be bold to build boreholes for himself and his family". He added: "we have never seen this kind of thing before in Yobe, both Bukar Abba Ibrahim and late Mamman Ali didn't do something like this, infact through out the nearly two years of Mamman Ali, he didn't even change the paint of any of his houses in Potiskum, Maiduguri and Abuja which he acquired before becoming governor. Bukar only built a new house in Damaturu after completing eight years tenure but for Gaidam's own, we are really surprised, it is very surprising" Wakil added. Our correspondent who inspected the house however reports one of the boreholes in the governor's castle supplies water freely to neighbouring residents.

However, some others defended Gaidam on the project. "I don't see any thing wrong with the house, if the governor has anything to hide he would have used someone as front to build a house in the GRA and move in after he leaves office or even go to Abuja or Dubai to buy choice properties or a contractor will crudely build it and give to him as a gift. To me the fact that despite becoming a governor he chose not to leave Sabon Fegi which we all know is not a high brow area shows he is down to earth. We are happy to have him around us; his living here will attract development and other facilities such as water for us" Babagana Modu, a civil servant said.

PROPERTY

COREN deregisters erring engineer

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) yesterday found a septuagenarian, Mr. S. O Banjo guilty of gross professional misconduct and thus deregistered him from the Council's register for two years.

COREN had earlier tried the Structural Engineer late last year, where he pleaded guilty to the charges of aiding and abetting Bldr. M.B Animashau and Bldr (Mrs) D.M Adesina in throwing their professional ethics into the dustbin.

The Tribunal chaired by COREN'S President Engr. Habu Gumel ruled

that the accused having admitted to breaching Rule5 (1) conduct as provided in the engineers code of conduct and Part 2 (f) of the 2nd schedule to the Engineers (Registration etc) Act 11 2004 by pleading guilty thus the full wrath of the said part should be invoked against the accused.

He read the charges thus: "in the complaint letter by (CORBON), Engr. S. O. Banjo alleged to have as a Structural Engineer given a blank "form C" to Bldr. M.B Animashaun to sign on the project which Animashaun did not participate, thereby given the impression builder was involved in the pro-

duction process. The project in question was the WEMCO Hotel Limited in Lagos."

In his ruling Engr. Habu Gumel said, "the judgement of the tribunal is that going by the evidence and the plea of guilty by the accused; he is thereby found charged. His name is hereby ordered to be struck off the register for two years after which the tribunal upon application by the accused will decide whether to relist his name in the register.

This direction shall be published in the Federal Gazette. Also machinery to be put in place to ensure that this directive of the tribunal is adhered to."

Motorists want Abuja-Kubwa expressway expansion project completed this year

By Hussein Yahaya

MOTORISTS plying Abuja-Kubwa express way have appealed to the contractors handling the expansion projects on the road to intensify effort and complete the project by the end of this year.

Most of the motorists also expressed satisfaction with the rate at which the work is being carried out and urged the contractors handling the project not to relent. Mr. Azeez Sanni, expressed

confidence that when completed, the vehicular jam being expressed on the expressway at rush hours will become a thin of the past.

He however called on the contractor handling the project to work according to the specification in order to ensure durability of the project.

Another driver who spoke with our reporter at the Dusten-junction axis of the express way advised the contractor and the authority concerned to construct an over-head

bridge at the junction to further ease traffic jam.

An official of one of the construction companies handling the project, who craved anonymity, promised that the expansion work on the express way will be completed as scheduled and to the specification.

It would be recalled that the Federal government had earlier directed that the expansion works on both Abuja-Zuba express way and Abuja-Gwagwalada way be completed on or before 2011.

FCDA gets new board members

By Nasir Imam

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has approved the reconstitution of a board which shall be responsible for policy formulation for the effective discharge of the mandate of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA).

Decree No. 6 of 1976

establishing both the FCT and the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) charged the Authority with the responsibility of planning, designing and developing the territory.

The persons who make up the new board The eight member board include Rabiu

Suleiman Bichi, Chief Yunana Iliya, Chief Chidi Onyemchukwu, Saliu Ayanleye, Engr. N. Wills, Babayo Ibrahim, Hajia Ramatu Lawal, and Senator Paul Wampana.

The new board members are expected to be inaugurated on Tuesday, January.



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021, KADUNA - NIGERIA

RELEASE OF ADMISSIONS INTO 2009/2010 HNDI, NDII AND NATIONAL DIPLOMA 1 (NDI)

This is to inform all candidates that applied to Kaduna Polytechnic for HNDI, NDII and National Diploma 1(NDI), that the list of successful candidates is now on display at the Institution's website. Candidates can check their names by logging into www.kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng; they are to enter their application numbers, to find out whether they have been admitted.

Successfully admitted candidates can download their admission letters from the website, on purchase of NGN2, 000.00 (TWO THOUSAND NAIRA) scratch for HNDI and NDII candidates and NGN3, 000 (THREE THOUSAND NAIRA) for NDI from any branch of Oceanic Bank PLC. Admitted candidates are to proceed to their various departments with the copy of their admission letter and original credentials for screening and registration.

Notes:

While all candidates can check for their names @www.kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng, only successfully admitted candidates are to purchase the scratch card.

Alh. Mamoon A. Abubakar

Registrar

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com
News about your capital city

Two die in accident at Sheda

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

TWO persons lost their lives Monday morning while seven others sustained serious injuries in a fatal accident that occurred at Sheda Village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eyewitness said the accident happened around 6:10 am when a DAF truck with registra-

tion number XA 386 KNK loaded with cows ran into a pothole and crashed into a ditch, killing two persons on the spot.

City News learnt that the truck was on top speed as the driver was trying to avoid a pothole and veered off the road, before it crashed into a ditch, leaving seven persons with various degrees of injuries.

Yangoji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Abdulláhi Umar, said the accident occurred as the driver ran into a pothole, adding that the two corpses have been conveyed to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's morgue.

He said the injured passengers were rushed to Kwali General

Hospital, while the obstruction has been cleared.

He further disclosed that 18 passengers on board a commercial bus were also injured yesterday in another accident that occurred at Kwaita village, along the same road.

According to the FRSC unit commander, a Mitsubishi bus with registration number

XA 763 NSR tried to overtake another vehicle and in the process, rammed into a Daf truck with registration number XA 349 NSR that was on motion.

He said the 18 passengers who sustained serious injuries were evacuated to Kwali General Hospital and the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

BARROW pushers near an empty news stand at Utako, Abuja yesterday.

FCT taskforce storms Kado-Karmo road

By Olotu Samuel

FCT taskforce members yesterday took hawkers and roadside traders unaware when they arrived the area at 11 am to carry out a raid.

Our reporter learnt that the activities of the roadside traders normally resort to traffic jams at Karmo, which has been a source of concern to the FCT authority.

Traders as well as hawkers that sighted the taskforce bus filled with policemen quickly packed their wares and took to their heels.

Unlucky traders, especially recharge cards sellers were apprehended by members of the taskforce, who burnt their tables and chairs, before forcing them into the bus.

An eyewitness said the taskforce bus raids the place almost everyday, while Jennifer, a recharge card seller as well as victim, lamented her losses incurred in the operation.

"When the taskforce first began operation, they normally seize wares but now they burn traders' tables, chairs, umbrellas and other items," she lamented.

Another trader advised government to stop burning traders' property, adding that the traders are only out to make a living under the harsh economic situation facing the country.

Gardener in police net over yam theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 26-year-old gardener has been arrested by a police patrol team for being in possession of a bag of yam allegedly stolen from a farm at Gishiri Village, Abuja.

The suspect, Ismaila Danbaba, was said to have been arrested at about 2 am on January 11 this year carrying a bag of allegedly stolen yams.

Police sources said that a patrol team led by one Corporal Paul

Michael arrested the suspect and took him to Maitama Police Station.

The policeman stated further that during police investigations, the suspect confessed to have stolen the tuber of yams from one farm located at the

back of Gishiri Village.

He added that in the course of investigation, the suspect told the police that he stole the yams because of hunger.

The accused will be charged to court today, our reporters learnt.

Undergraduate remanded over rape

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja Upper Area court recently remanded a university student in prison custody for allegedly raping an 8-year-old girl.

The accused, Sanni Temitope Isa, a 400 level university undergraduate, was said to have raped the little girl in a shop at Bannex Plaza.

Prosecutor Ahmed Mohammed stated in court that on December 31, 2009, one Bello Yunusa Hamman of Plot 4, G3, Alexandra Crescent, Wuse-

2, Abuja, reported to the police, that his wife sent the girl (names withheld) to the Plaza to buy some vegetables.

"While at the plaza, the accused accosted the girl and forcefully dragged her into one of the shops as well as covered her mouth to prevent her from shouting for help," the prosecutor narrated.

He went further to add that the accused used a kitchen knife to threaten the little girl before raping her with violence, adding that the accused committed an offence punishable under Sec-

tion 283 of the Penal Code Law.

He also told the court that after the rape, the girl was immediately rushed to the National Hospital where she was treated for the injuries sustained.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied raping the little girl and requested for bail, which was vehemently opposed by the prosecutor.

In his ruling, Judge Umar Kagarko ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody until application for his bail is filed by his lawyer.

Man accused of attempted kidnap

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

A 28-year-old man, Enuma Chuks, was recently arraigned before an Abuja Area Court for allegedly attempting to abduct a 7-year-old girl.

Prosecutor Malik informed the court that on November 18, 2009, one Victor Charles Ozizi reported to the police that the accused with one other at large, conspired to abduct the girl to an unknown destination.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted the accused bail with a surety in like sum and adjourned the case to February 19, for hearing.

Kwali council boss clarifies choice of running mate

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE acting Chairman of Kwali Area Council, Mr. Danlami Saleh Yebu, says he had earlier discussed with the FCT PDP executive over his choice of Alhaji Barau Zagana, a Bassa man, as his running mate even before he went to collect his nomination forms.

According to him, his decision to pick a Bassa man as running mate was based on an agreement reached with the Bassa people of the council, as a result of their maximum support and cooperation that made him to emerge victorious during the election primaries.

He said Bassa communities resolved to present one of their sons, who was

a two-term councillor representing Kudu Ward of the council as his running mate, saying that Bassa people are the second largest in population after the Gwaris in the council.

He however stated that Kwali council comprises many ethnic groups including the Ganagana, Bassa, Gwari, Hausa/Fulani, Igbo and the Yorubas, saying it will be a betrayal if he fails to uphold the earlier agreement reached with the Bassa communities who are the second largest in terms of population.

"And even before the collection of my nomination form, I had explained to the FCT PDP executive about my running mate which they all accepted. So I don't see any reason for any one to come up

with the decision to impose a running mate on me because I am afraid that could generate crisis in Kwali PDP," he stated.

The council boss urged the FCT PDP executive to rescind their decision to impose a running mate on him, saying Alhaji Usman Jiya, who came second during the PDP primaries should collaborate with the party to ensure victory in the forthcoming council elections.

He said there are other political positions which the party can still offer Alhaji Usman Jiya apart from the vice chairman's position, noting that the PDP as a "family" is always ready to carry everybody along.

Pick pocket escapes Nyanya mob

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Usman Bello

A middle aged man yesterday escaped a mob attack at Nyanya bus stop when he tried to pick N20,000 from a lady's hand bag.

The alleged pick pocket who boarded the same commuter with the victim, one Ann Moses from Jabi to Nyanya, was said to have been caught in the act while trying to remove something from the lady's bag on getting to their destination.

Speaking to city news, Ann said she had suspected him right from Jabi when they boarded the vehicle, which made her to be on the alert hence she was able to catch him when he attempted to remove money from her bag.

The suspected pickpocket who was surrounded by a mob said he was wrongly accused as he didn't intend to steal anything from her bag.

"I only tried to help her pick something that wanted to fall out from her bag, when she started shouting 'thief thief' at me and if not for some good Samaritans here I would have been beaten up," he said.

Micheal Uche, one of those who rescued the suspect from the mob, said he had to control the situation so that they could hand him over to the police, adding that most of the passengers in the vehicle had suspected him immediately he boarded the vehicle and also because he did not want people to take the law into their hand.

Abuja walkways turn to litter dumps

By Romoke W. Ahmad

RESIDENTS and some hawkers in parts of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have turned what was meant as pedestrian walkways into dump sites, where wastes and sundry items are dumped thereby making it difficult for people to pass through such places.

City News noticed that walkways from Nyanya up to Jikwoyi have been turned into waste dumps.

Some residents of the area, who spoke on the issue, attributed the menace to the inability of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) to provide waste bins at designated spots within the area.

Ishaq Ameer, a resident of Karu, said some residents are not sincere because AEPB had earlier distributed waste bins to the area but they disappeared.

"Residents are to blame for the problem of lack of waste bins because the level of poverty is so high to the extent that some persons in the area steal them," he lamented.

Another resident from Jikwoyi who craved anonymity, said it is time AEPB finds an alternative to the problem so that walkways can be free from litters of waste.

According to him "It is unhygienic for people to live close to the waste because it can lead to illnesses and can even cause accidents because they block the road."

Council chairman urges peace among residents

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

CHAIRMAN of Kuje Area Council, Mr. Danladi Etsu Zhin, has called on religious leaders in the area council to always ensure peaceful co-existence among the people of their domain.

Zhin made the plea during a meeting with religious leaders, Imams from various wards, the Christian Association of Nigeria coordinator, pastors from all the churches, divisional police officers and State Security Services (SSS) agents as well as other stakeholders in the council.

He expressed satisfaction at the support and cooperation given to his administration, especially by ensuring peaceful co-existence within the past two and half years of his regime.

He urged the clerics to always cultivate the spirit of oneness, by commencing all their activities with the fear of God, adding that there is need for tolerance and respect for one another's religion.

"We started this year's meeting with religious leaders, in order to enable them convey the message to their adherents that Kuje have been peaceful and we want it to be permanent," he solicited.

The council boss commended government's effort to restore peace in the Niger Delta region and urged the religious leaders to continue to pray for the quick recovery of Mr President so that he can come back to pilot the affairs of the country.

Responding, Kuje CAN

coordinator, Mr. Victor Abayomi, commended the chairman for dedicating himself to the security and safety of lives as well as property of the residents of the area.

According to him, since the commencement of the present council administration, there has been peaceful co-existence between Christians and Moslems and the entire residents of the council.

Also responding, the Chief Imam of Pasali Jumat Mosque, Ustaz Ahmed Shehu, urged all religious leaders to proffer advice for the sustenance of peace in Kuje, FCT and the nation.

He advised youth to shun crisis and any act of violence that will tarnish the image of the country.

NIGER STATE POLYTECHNIC, ZUNGERU (Office of the Registrar)

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS

In compliance with the Due Process requirements of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru hereby invites suitably qualified and interested contractors and Suppliers with proven competence and experience to apply for Pre-qualification for the Execution of ETF YEAR 2008 LIBRARY INTERVENTION PROJECT Listed below:

- a) LOT 1: Procurement of Various Science and Technology Textbooks, ETF Project NO. PLY/ZUNGERU/ETF/LIB/08/01.
- b) LOT 2: Procurement of 12No Computers with complete accessories and 12No. UPS, ETF Project NO. PLY/ZUNGERU/ETF/LIB/08/02.

Pre-qualification Requirements

2. To qualify for consideration, interested contractors/suppliers are required to submit the following verifiable documents:

- i) Incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii) Company VAT Registration Certificate for the last three (3) years.
- iii) Evidence of Registration with Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru.
- iv) A letter of ability to perform from your Banker(s).
- v) Current Tax Clearance Certificate in the last three (3) years.
- vi) Evidence of Technical and Financial Capability.

3. Pre-qualified Contractors/Suppliers would obtain details of the job specifications from the Works Department after the presentation of receipts of payment of non-refundable Tender Fee of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000.00) Only.

4. The application must be sealed and clearly marked envelopes stating the Project of Interest and addressed to the Secretary, Tenders Committee, Niger State polytechnic, P.M.B. 001, Zungeru, not less than one week after the date of publication of this advertisement.

SIGNED:

MRS. MARGARET A OBAJA
(AG REGISTRAR)



Central Bank of Nigeria

In furtherance of the transparency and full disclosure stance of the Central bank of Nigeria, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided that henceforth the lending rates obtainable in all Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) be made public to guide business decisions. Consequently, find below the applicable rates for each of the DMBs as at 8/01/2010. The rates will be published every Wednesday in some selected national newspapers. The rates will also be available on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria, www.cenbank.org.

Average Deposit and Lending Rates as at 8-01-2010

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	Agriculture		Mining & Quarrying		Oil & Gas		Manufacturing		Real Estate & Const	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	3.00	4.00	14.45	17.00	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	18.00	24.00
2	AfriBank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	15.00	19.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.88	3.07	14.56	14.00	N/A	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	14.00	20.00	18.00	21.50
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	14.00	N/A	N/A	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	15.50	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	16.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	n/a	3.00	11.00	8.00	22.00	22.00	24.50	22.00	24.50	22.00	24.50	22.00	23.50
8	FCMB	0.10	3.20	12.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	23.50	18.00	23.50	18.00	22.50	18.00	22.50
9	FINBANK	0.25	4.00	15.00	14.00	24.75	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	3.50	14.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	n/a	n/a	10-14.5	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	n/a	n/a	10.52	22.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	10.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	4.5-17.5	25.00	27.00	25.00	27.00	25.00	27.00	25.00	27.00	25.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.50	1.60	11.10	4.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	15.00	14.00	14.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	-	3.00	12.30	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	4.00	5.00	15.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	n/a	n/a	10.69	19.00	22.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
20	Union Bank	n/a	n/a	3-13.75	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.86	2.59	12.63	8.00	22.00	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
22	Unity Bank	0.01	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	2.00	3.00	12.00	18.00	20.00	18.00	20.00	18.00	20.00	18.00	20.00	18.00	20.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-2	0-2	14.00	18.75	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.50	22.00

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	General Comm.		Mortgage		Transp. & Comm.		Fin. & Ins.		Govt.	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	3.00	4.00	14.45	18.00	27.00	14.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00
2	AfriBank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	18.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.88	3.07	14.56	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	14.00	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	15.50	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	16.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	n/a	3.00	11.00	22.00	24.50	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.50	22.00	23.50
8	FCMB	0.10	3.20	12.00	18.00	26.00	18.00	22.50	18.00	23.00	18.00	23.00	16.00	23.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	4.00	15.00	21.00	29.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	18.00	25.00	21.00	25.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	n/a	3.50	14.00	20.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	n/a	n/a	10-14.5	17.00	22.00	9.50	9.50	18.00	25.00	22.00	28.00	22.00	25.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	n/a	n/a	10.52	22.00	28.00	n/a	n/a	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	n/a	n/a
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	10.00	18.00	22.00	17.00	24.00	22.00	27.00	25.00	30.00	22.00	27.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	4.5-17.5	22.50	27.00	17.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
15	Bank PHB	0.50	1.60	11.10	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	15.00	15.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
17	Spring Bank	-	3.00	12.30	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	4.00	5.00	15.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	n/a	n/a	10.69	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
20	Union Bank	n/a	n/a	2-13.75	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.86	2.59	12.63	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
22	Unity Bank	0.01	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	2.00	3.00	12.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	20.00	18.00	21.00	18.00	20.00	18.00	20.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-2	0-2	14.00	19.00	22.00	17.50	22.00	18.00	22.00	12.00	19.00	19.00	22.00

These are the interest rates banks charge the public on loans and advances. It reflects the cost of borrowings and also includes all charges and commissions levied by banks.

(Signed)
Management

Inside Politics

2011: PDP's slippery path to Yobe Govt House

2011 is just around the corner but the stakes are growing higher in Yobe's political space. The PDP appears to have very bright chances, but how will it tackle the many challenges ahead? **Hamza Idris** reports from Damaturu.

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which controls Nigeria's political structure at the centre has remained in the opposition in Yobe State since 1999 despite several chances it had to upstage the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP). The party currently has one Senator and one member in the House of Representatives as well as five members in the state House of Assembly.

Though the PDP has maintained formidable posture in the scheme of things, several factors including intra party wrangling have kept the Yobe Government House very far away from the arms of the party.

In 2007, the ANPP defeated the PDP only marginally in the gubernatorial election. With just 14,300 vote difference in 2007, officials of the party have promised to dislodge the ANPP come 2011; saying history will not be allowed to repeat itself.

However, many observers say this may remain a herculean task for the PDP which has several hurdles to contend with before the election. First is the issue of accepting new entrants into its folds. It is becoming clear that the PDP will harvest from the crisis going on in other parties but the incumbent state chairman Alhaji Abba Gana Tata does not appear to be comfortable with the process being worked out to receive the new members.

Tata, *Daily Trust* learnt, believes that accepting new members into the PDP, especially those with enamoured political clout will constitute a threat to his political ambition. He is widely believed to be nursing governorship ambition therefore embracing many competitors may reduce his chances of becoming the flag-bearer of the party in 2011. Since the former Minister of State for Agriculture Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri unceremoniously went into oblivion after his exit from the cabinet of President Umaru Yar'adua, the Yobe State PDP governorship ticket became visibly up for contest.

However, the PDP chairman has vehemently refuted the allegation that he is trying to constitute hindrance for prospective decampees. He insists that party's doors are widely open to everybody especially those that would keep it close to their hearts "not just those who want to take advantage of the current situation for selfish interest."

He said that many bigwigs are planning to join the PDP but advised that those coming in must appreciate that some people have suffered "enormously to nurture the party from grass to grace."

"We have been in the party right from the time that nobody wanted to be associated with it. We have been working right from the time that the PDP did not have even a councillor in the state," Tata said.

Of recent, there are speculations that some members of the National Assembly and eleven members from the state House of Assembly have completed arrangements to dump the ANPP in order to join the PDP.

Most of them our findings reveal, are not in the good books or rather "camp" of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam and therefore afraid of what would befall them during the party's primary elections ahead of 2011.

Similarly, it was gathered that most of the affected legislators and other ANPP supporters planning to cross-carpet to the PDP are basically those de-registered during the recent membership registration of the party because of their alleged "allegiance to Senator Usman Albishir" who has been challenging his wrongful substitution in the 2007 governorship election.

However, Barrister Bala Haladu, Yobe State commissioner for information, has debunked speculations that there is an impending mass exit of the legislators from the ANPP. He told our correspondent that neither the state government nor the ANPP leadership has received any notice to that effect.

"It is just the fiction of the imagination of some people...as far as we are concerned, the ANPP is intact," Haladu said.

In spite of denial from government officials, speculations of the impending exit of top ranking ANPP members bean to bear some semblance of truth recently when Alhaji Baba Gishuwari, member representing Fune/Fika federal constituency in the national assembly, confirmed his exit from the ANPP. His formal reception into the PDP is scheduled for this Saturday in his home town Damagum.

The PDP has also received many decampees recently including the gubernatorial candidate of the Democratic Peoples Party



ADAMU Maina Waziri



JIBRIN Maigari

(DPP) Alhaji Hassan Jawi at an elaborate ceremony in Dagona.

Jawi had told his new party (PDP) that all the chairmen of the DPP at the local government level in Yobe State are planning to shift their loyalty to the PDP even though the national vice chairman (North East) of the DPP Alhaji Abdullahi Bi'ada had denied that any such thing will happen.

Similarly, towards the end of December last year, the minister of state for foreign affairs Alhaji Jibrin Maigari who is the leader of the PDP in Yobe State had told reporters in Damaturu after a meeting of the party that preparations have reached advance stage to receive Senator Usman Albishir and his supporters into the PDP.

Though our correspondent gathered that there was indeed such a move, many supporters of Albishir as well as some key actors in the PDP viewed the disclosure by the minister as "political misadventure."

Probably that was why Alhaji Mai Goroma, an ex-commissioner of finance in Yobe State and a close associate of Senator Albishir, went to press and refuted the claim of the minister. "There was never such a move...Albishir is still pursuing his wrongful substitution as the gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP at the Supreme Court and the ruling is coming up in February," Mai Goroma said.

But another source close to Albishir said the Supreme Court ruling will determine the next line

of action of the former Minority Leader of the Senate. "If the judgement favours him, fine, he will automatically become governor on the platform of the ANPP and if the case turns against him, he will definitely join forces with the PDP in 2011," the source said.

Albishir had reportedly directed his supporters to vote for the PDP on the eve of the 2007 elections when it became clear that the national headquarters of the ANPP was not ready to field him as its candidate.

Political pundits are of the opinion that the emerging tension in the Yobe PDP, despite its glaring strength at the moment, will certainly create some impediments for the party. The dilemma at the moment appears to be more on who becomes the gubernatorial candidate for the 2011, a person that would be acceptable to the diverse interests within the party and put up a good fight against the incumbent governor who has resources and power at his disposal.

The perennial flag-bearer of the PDP, former minister of state of agriculture Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri had thrice contested the governorship election in Yobe State but lost twice to former Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim and to late Senator Mamman Ali in 2007.

With his exit from the scheme of things shortly after he was relieved of his ministerial appointment by President Yar'adua, there have been uncertainties regarding

funding of the PDP. Waziri had been the greatest financier of the party since 1999.

Indications have emerged strongly that Waziri may never contest for the governorship of Yobe again, at least under the banner of the PDP because of his seeming bitter relationship with the party at the national headquarters. In fact he was among the 53 eminent Nigerians who signed a document which called for Yar'adua to resign because of his ill health.

"In all honesty, the PDP at the centre will never endorse Waziri, it is now left for the followers of the party at the state level to shop for a credible person to replace him," a member of the party told *Daily Trust*.

Daily Trust learnt that most of the people that were nurtured politically by Waziri are now afraid of going close to him because of his leftist disposition towards the PDP at the top, an official of the party said.

But some observers still hold the opinion that despite the odds, Waziri will remain a factor in determining who flies the flag of the PDP in 2011 because of his wealth of experience and large followership.

Another member of the PDP who is gunning for the governorship ticket in 2011 is Engineer Yakubu Bello, the flag-bearer of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in 2007 who decamped to ANPP shortly after the election before crossing again to PDP. He is now a board member of Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA).

Others are Alhaji Hassan Saleh, onetime secretary to the Yobe State government as well as Alhaji Garba Umar. The two are now senior federal civil servants in Abuja. This of course exclude potential candidates from the Senator Usman Albishir camp in the event the embattle Senator decides to dump the ANPP for the PDP.

It was alleged that most of the potential candidates have severally planned to come out and express their interest but have repeatedly failed to get the consent of the state chairman.

All things being equal, the chances of the PDP will remain slippery unless it puts its house in order. Anything short of this will certainly pave the way for the ruling ANPP to continue to dominate the political space in Yobe.

Inside Politics

Money bags, problem of Plateau PDP – Gogwim

SENATOR Satty Davies Gogwim (PDP, Plateau Central) in this interview with some journalists in Abuja explains what he believes is the cause of the crisis rocking the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Plateau State. **Abdul-Rahman Abubakar** was there.

YOU have returned to the PDP from the AC which sponsored you to the Senate in 2007, how has it been so far?

It has not been a smooth come back, so to say, from the Action Congress. Hitherto, what we did was to leave the PDP for another party to be able to launch ourselves and even after doing that we had a very rough ride to victory. Shortly after going through the rigours of election, some opponents were sponsored to take me to court. Even now I am still in court.

What will you attribute this rough ride to, is it because of the factions in the PDP?

What is happening in Plateau today is not as a result of fictionalisation within the party but the activities of some few nominal members of the party. Because they are not satisfied with what is going on in the party and with the governance of Plateau, they decided to form a parallel party. Unfortunately, the national secretariat decided to recognise them. That is what is going on in the party. As it is now, what is happening in Plateau State is being sponsored by money bags. But if

we are not careful, it is the party that will lose at the end of the day.

Does it mean you fear for the PDP ahead 2011?

Well I don't really know about that, but one thing I know about that we will at the end of the day solve the crisis in the party. If anybody thinks he is leading the party in Plateau by attacking the governor, such person is deceiving himself because the leader of the party is the governor. In all PDP controlled states, the governors are the leaders of the party. You will also agree with me that the party will hardly survive without the support of the governor. If there are some money bags in the state that feel that the party cannot survive without them, it is unfortunate, if I may say so.

What is the national executive of the party doing to solve the crisis?

We expect the national secretariat to play a neutral role in resolving the existing crisis. That is our opinion and that is what we expect.

Is that what they are doing?

Well, I hope they are doing that.

What is your opinion about the proposed amendment to the Constitution that after 2011 anyone that dumps his original party should lose his seat?

I don't think that will ever work because it is like marriage of convenience between two people. If the marriage is no more convenient, a party should have the right to go. You cannot force it. The issue of anybody losing his seat because he has jumped the ship is tantamount to Section 40 of the Constitution. Section 68(1g) also provides for what we are talking about here and there is no reason for anybody to say that because you are moving from one party to the other, you should lose your seat. What if the people that voted for you decided that you should move from a killer party to another party? Should you now lose your seat? In my own case, all my people moved with me back to PDP from AC. In fact anyone that is left in AC is only there for mischief.

It is clear that the dispute between Governor Jang on one hand and Mantu and Dariye on the other is causing the crisis, is there a way



SENATOR Satty Davies Gogwim

the three of them can work together?

The solution of whatever crisis that is bedeviling the state is in the hands of those three. Whatever decision that will solve the problem lies with the three of them. I may not be a mediator among them; I may not even know the problem that is there, but I know that the best option is to make sure that nothing happens to the fragile peace in Plateau. Whatever anyone of them is going to do, there must be peace, which is paramount. 2011 is in the hands of God. Whoever is fighting me or the governor should know that. And whoever is trying to destabilise the state

is only wasting his time because God in his infinite mercy will intervene on behalf of his people.

Do you think it is appropriate for the Senate to debate the health of President Yar'adua?

I don't think it is ripe and right to debate the President's health, unless of course we know the condition of health of Mr. President. Otherwise, what are we going to debate on? Are we going to just speculate? There is no medical opinion as specified in sections of the Constitution and unless there is such medical opinion by a team of qualified persons, there is nothing anyone can do.

Anambra: CSOs want INEC to display voters register

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Civil Society Coordinating Committee on Electoral Reform (CSCC) yesterday urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to immediately display voters' register for the February 6 Anambra governorship election to build public confidence on the poll.

Chairman of the group Oby Nwankwo at a press briefing in Abuja said the exact polling stations and their locations should also be published in the media and displayed for people to verify their actual existence. While demanding that

the final election results should be announced within 24 hours, Mr. Nwankwo stated that the results of elections must be publicly displayed at the polling station after counting and copies of the results given to party agents, observers and journalists.

The coalition however noted that the Senate Public Hearings on the Constitutional/Electoral Reform were poorly conducted across the country because many citizens and groups were denied the opportunity to make their presentations.

"In most centres civil society organizations had to struggle had to get on the

list, and even at that many were shut out of the process. In the north west centre for example, civil society organizations were systematically excluded from making presentations," he added.

The CSCC chair also reminded lawmakers that Nigerians are united about the necessity and urgency for the implementation of Uwais Committee recommendations that electoral reform must be completed in time for the 2011 general elections, believing that the National Assembly has sufficient materials and broad consensus from Nigerians as to what direction and form the electoral reform should take.

Soludo: Court adjourns hearing to Jan. 19

THE Court of Appeal on Tuesday adjourned hearing to Jan. 19 on the main suit challenging the nomination of Prof. Chukwuoma Soludo to contest the February 6 Anambra governorship election on the platform of PDP.

Justice Rabi'u Mohammed, who presided over the sitting in Abuja, ordered the respondents: Soludo, PDP and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to file their briefs on or before Jan. 18.

"We must comply with the Supreme Court's order for an accelerated hearing on the matter," he said.

Valentine Ozigboh, Nkoli Imo, and Ferdinand Okoye, also PDP's governorship aspirants on Dec. 12, 2009 filed a motion seeking to restrain the judgment of

Justice Danlami Senchi of an Abuja High Court which struck out their preliminary suit against Soludo's nomination.

The Plaintiffs had posited that the PDP contravened the provisions of its constitution, the 1999 constitution and the 2006 Electoral Act in the selection of Soludo as a candidate.

Mr Patrick Ikwueto, counsel to Soludo however, held that the selection of candidates to participate in elections was the prerogative of the political parties and could not be challenged in the court of law.

Delivering a ruling on a motion for a stay filed by Ozigboh, Justice Mary Odili on Dec. 11, 2009 in the appellant court ordered INEC to disregard the nomination of Soludo pending the determi-

nation of the main suit.

The Supreme Court, however, overturned that decision on Dec. 17 when Soludo approached it challenging the ruling of the appellant court.

The apex court in its ruling reaffirmed the candidacy of Soludo and thereafter ordered INEC to recognise him as the PDP candidate for the election while the appeal went on.

Mrs Nkoli Imo, and Ferdinand Okoye have withdrawn from the appeal while Ozigboh stayed committed to its determination.

Mr Olusola Oke, counsel to the PDP said that it would be honourable for Ozigboh to withdraw from pursuing the matter, adding that he (Ozigboh) failed to present himself for out of court settlement. (NAN)

TRUST CLASSIFIED

ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED

Block D 13, Flat 3, Zone 5, Games Village Abuja

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR

Following the recent development with respect to the affairs of company, and after the Board of Directors meeting held on the 31st day of Dec. 2009, at the company's head office, it was resolved that you ADAMU S. GALADIMA ESQ, be and is hereby appointed as the official liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing the assets of the company.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED(RC: 770821) AT THE EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED held at the Company's head office located at No. Block D15, Plot 2, Zone 5, Games Village Abuja, on the 31st day of Dec. 2009, the following resolution was proposed and passed.

1. That ADAGS UNIVERSAL TRADE LIMITED be voluntarily wound up by the unanimous consent of all the members present voting.
2. That the winding up should be subject to the supervision of the court.

ASSOCIATION OF STATISTIC STUDENT OF NIGERIA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1 of 1990.

TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. AMINU SADIQ ABDULMALIK | - | President |
| 2. JEFFERY BONY IJEHOR | - | Senator |
| 3. HARUNA HASSAN | - | Senator |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote unity among members
2. To propel the frontier of statistics & promote the profession of statistics.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja with 28 days of this publication.

FOURTH PARTY PLAYHOUSE MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied to CAC for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Adeniyi Olalekan Adekunle
2. Omotayo Taiwo Bolakale
3. Adeniyi Folahanmi O.
4. Omotayo Itunu

OBJECTIVE(S):

1. To teach Christian truth and values through creative arts such as drama, dance, music, etc.

Any objection to this registration should be furnished to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Ifeoluwapo Sarumi

LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of Original Customary Right of Occupancy in respect of Plot No. E145 of about 800sqm in Mpape II Layout issued by Bwari Area Council, Land, Planning and Survey Dept., on 15/01/2001 had got missing. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return the nearest police station.



THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BIDA

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
P.M.B 55, BIDA, NIGER STATE - NIGERIA
TEL: BIDA 086461707, 461909

CORRIGENDUM

RE: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT VACANCY FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE

With respect to the advertisement of Monday, November 23, 2009 in the *Daily Trust* Newspaper on the above captioned, the requirement for qualification is hereby amended as follows:-

QUALIFICATION

Interested candidate should possess a good honours degree in Civil Engineering or Architectural Technology from a recognized University with at least 12 years post qualification.

All other conditions still remain unchanged.

SIGNED:
Chief Bisi Adeyemi
Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are notifying the general public on the missing of the Original Offer letter of Ishaq Abba Muhammad issued to him by sales of Fed. Gov't Houses Committee. Misplaced by Aso Saving & Loans Ltd. All effort made to retrieve has proved abortive, please any person(s) that sees or found it should deliver to block 4 flat 7 Gaidan close, Garki Area 8 Abuja or the Committee that issued. Publication made with authority of the offeree; by Sim Abarshi legal services.

POTENT LOVE EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Pastor Kunle Adeosun
2. Mrs. Tohilope Adeosun
3. Barrister Taiwo Ganzallo
4. Dr. Anne Olayinka Akinlotan
5. Mr. Kunle Balogun

Aims and objectives:

1. To help the less privileged in our society.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Legal Adviser

'BRIT OLAM KEHILAH-EVERLASTING COVENANT MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Zakharyah Uche Okonkwo
2. Yahgozie Bizalyah Unigwa
3. Baruch Onyeawwuns Okpala
4. Onyiah Francis
5. Yachanan Edwin Onyekonwu

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the original certificate of Occupancy with NO.FCT/MZTP/LA/01/MISC.2625 belonging to Cordelia U. Bosah got burnt during a house fire at plot No. 608, Gudu District Abuja on 24th March, 2004. This publication will help to obtain replacement of fresh document. Gudu District Abuja and general public should take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MISS STELLA CHIDINMA OBIYOR** now wish to be known as **MRS STELLA CHIDINMA LUKE EZEKWEM**. All former documents remain valid. Unity Bank Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS BUSHIRAH YUSUF** now wish to be known as **MRS BUSHIRAH ABDULAZEEZ ADISA**. All former documents remain valid. Unity Bank Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **FUNMILAYO AINA MARTINS** now wish to be called **MRS FUNMILAYO AINA OTUWE OLORUNYOMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly known as **OKORO CLEMENTINA CHINYERE** now wish to be called **MRS OKAFOR CLEMENTINA CHINYERE**. All former documents remain valid. Air-Midwest and general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **JAMILA ABUBAKAR** wish to be called **OUROKORIGO MOLLAH DJAMILA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, Formerly known as **MISS HALIMAT AJINTUHO** now wish to be known as **MRS HALIMAT ABDULRAHAM**. All former documents remain valid. University of Abuja and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **SUNDAY ANIETIE SILAS ETUKE-UDOH**, now wish to be known as **SUNDAY ANIETIE CLINTON**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly **MISS INYANG ATING** now to be addressed as **MRS OKON ARCHIBONG**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Army and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS PATRICIA CHIEDU NWANJI**, now wish to be called **MRS PATRICIA CHIEDU OGENYI**. Former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **AMAEFULA FINELADY CHINONYE**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. CHINONYE FINELADY NDUKWE MUSHINWA**. All former documents remain valid and general public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS NWAMADI VIVIAN UCHECHI** now wish to be known as **MRS. NWANKWO VIVIAN UCHECHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

JESUS PROPHETIC POWER MINISTRY

This is to notify the general public that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990:

The Board of Trustees are:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. PASTOR SHOLA ALABI | - PRESIDENT |
| 2. MRS OLANIKE ALABI | - VICE PRESIDENT |
| 3. MRS TEJU DADA | - SECRETARY |
| 4. MISS TOSIN ADETONA | - TREASURER |
| 5. MR MAYOWA DADA | - MEMBER |

The Aims and Objectives are:-

1. TO BRING PEOPLE TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.
2. TO DELIVER THE OPPRESSED.
3. TO RAISE A PEOPLE OF POWER, PURITY AND PRAISE.
4. TO DEMONSTRATE THE GENUINE POWER OF GOD.

Any objection to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
TEJU DADA
Secretary

OPENMIND FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Dr. Isreal Nonyerem Davidson (The President)
2. Mr. Sirajo Abdulkadir (The General Secretary)
3. Uchenna Nwachukwu
4. Mr. Adetola Adedeji
5. Mr. Ozioma Tito Davidson

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote activities that will promote peace and human development in Nigeria.
2. To promote activities that will bring about corruption free society, social justice high level of patriotism and efficiency in Nigeria.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 195, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Shaibu Sani Esq.
Suite 22 Mangal Plaza
Area 11 Garki, Abuja.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly called **NIKE ADEWUYI** now wish to be called **ADENIKE TEMITOPE ADEWUYI**. Former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Bida and general public take note.

I formerly known as **MISS OMALI ELEJO DAISY** now wish to be addressed as **MRS EGIRANI ELEJO DAISY**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note

I, formerly **Miss. Usman Fatima**. Now wish to be known as **Mrs. Usman Fatima Suleiman**. All formal documents remain valid. SCA/DAC. ABU., Zaria, NYSC and general public note.

I, formerly **Miss. Abdulahi Lubabatu**. Now wish to be known as **Mrs. Abdulahi Lubabatu Nalado**. All formal documents remain valid. SCA/DAC. ABU., Zaria, NYSC and general public note.

Formerly **OKEKE IFEOMA DORISANN** now wish to be known as **OKEKE IFECHINYERE DORISANN**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Formerly, **BUHARI MUSA** now **ABDULLAHI MUSA YARIMA**. All former documents remain valid. Toro Local Government Council and public to note.

I, formerly known as **ABIOLA OLUBANWO DUROSINMI-ETTI** wishes to be known as **MRS ABIOLA MORAKINYO**. All former documents remain valid. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the general public take note.

formerly known as **UKEH MICHAEL MWESIRI**, now wish to be known as **DAY MICHAEL MUESIRI**. All former documents remain valid. general public take note.

Formerly known as **MISS RITA FATU OKEWU** now wish to be known as **MRS RITA FATU OKEWU-SANNI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS GLORIA MOSISIEMESE AJIBOYE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS GLORIA MOSISIEMESE MAIYAKI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **KABIRU MUSTAFA** now wish to be known as **DAVID CHUKWUJIM K.** All former documents remain valid. Command and Secondary School, Suleja should take note.

I, formerly known as **IKE THERESA OGBOSO**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS THERESA CHINAZE BAMIYO**. All former documents remain valid. I.A.P. and general public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Right of Occupancy in respect of Plot No. 656A of about 6500sqm located at Sabon Lugbe South-West Extension Layout belonging to Urban Tech Engineering Limited, No 14, Amazon Street, Maitama, Abuja.

All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive.

If found please contact Urban Tech Engineering Limited, ASIS or the nearest police Station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I Alhaji Muhammad Idris of No.7 Wurno road Sokoto state, original letter of grant of statutory right of occupancy No.SOK/G/8651 a subdivision of S.227 dated February, 2007 was handed over to me by Alhaji Shehu Idris situated at Wurno road, Wamakko local government area of Sokoto state. The original letter of grant of statutory right of occupancy got missing within Sokoto metropolis on 14th September, 2009. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return to any nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby informed the loss of the following documents

1. Original copy of death Certificate of Late **DR. SHEHU LAWAL**.
2. Copy of allocation letter to **DR. SHEHU LAWAL** in respect of house No. **D118**, Prince and Princes Estate Duboyi, Abuja and other documents related to the said house.
3. Cars particulars
4. Original offer for plots of Land in Kuje and Gwagwalada in the names of **DR. SHEHU LAWAL, JAFARU ISA** and **IBRAHIM ISA ARI**.
5. Other valuable documents

All efforts to trace them prove abortive. The public to take notice please.

LOSS DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Offer Statutory Right of Occupancy of Plot No. 1087 measuring about 762.99m2 Cadastral Zone B08 Jahi Layout with new file No. Ed60772 dated 14/12/2009 bearing the name of **Abdullahi I. Abubakar**. All efforts to trace it proved abortive.

Signed:
Austine Udeobe

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Right of Occupancy of Plot No. C72 located at Mpape Layout, Bwari Area Council and Original Deposit Slip No. 1963 of Union Bank, Area 8 Branch dated 17th January, 2007, belonging to **MR. IKECHUKWU J. OSUZUGBE** of No. 9 J.F. Kennedy Street Asokoto got missing. All effort made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return the nearest police station.

I, formerly known as **MISS CHINWE FRANCISCA UDENZE**, now wish to be called **MRS. CHINWE FRANCISCA IKE**. ALL former documents remain valid. ROSARY International Nur/Pry school, Uniabuja and general public to take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I **FORMERLY ILORAH EMMANUEL FRANCIS CHIEDOZIE** NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS **EKWUEME EMMANUEL CHIEDOZIE**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY AND GENERAL PUBLIC TONOTE.

I, formerly **IJEOMA UCENNA AGBODIKE**, now **MRS IJEOMA UCENNA ALABI**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly called **MISS ESTHER ERONU** now **MRS TERNA ESTHER**. Former documents remain valid. F.U.T. Minna and the public to note.

I, formerly **MISS RAKIYA HABILA** now wish to be called **MRS RAKIYA H. DANIEL**. All former documents remain valid. KADP, Kaduna state and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS FAUSATU IMANA** is now known as **MRS FAUSATU SHUAIBU ABU**. All former documents remain valid. Kogi State Polytechnic and National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) should take note.

I, formerly known as **RABIATU BAFFA USMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS RABIATU LAWAL ADO**. All former documents remain valid. NIMET and general public take note.

I, formerly **UDE PETER OSITA** now **DON CHUKWUEMEKA PETER**. Former documents remains valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS DORCAS A. ISHAKU**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS DORCAS I. BANA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ENEM BRIDGET NKEMJIKA M.** Now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS NWIDEH BRIDGET NKEMJIKA M.** All former documents remain valid and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS CHINYERE OGUGUA UDECHUKWU** now wish to be addressed as **MRS CHINYERE OGUGUA ONWUGBUFOR**. All former documents remain valid. NMCM and general public take note.

SPORT

Eagles lack speed, creativity - Adepoju

Page 55



Egypt Pharaohs butcher Eagles

By Orkula Shaagee

NIGERIA yesterday paid the price for poor defending and porous midfield ball distribution, as the country's senior national football team crashed 3-1 to the superior power work of their Egyptian counterparts in the opening Group C match in Benguela, Angola.

Nigeria drew the first blood through Chinedu Obasi, who fired home at the edge of the box, after displacing his marker in the 11th minute of the game.

Egypt went into this match hoping to pick up their first victory against Nigeria in 47 years as the Pharaohs began their title defence, and the Super Eagles looked determined from the start, making typically tough tackles, but the first chance of the game fell to Egypt, as Mohamed Zidan found himself in front of goal, but his shot was wasted as he hit it over Vincent Enyeama's goal.

The Eagles were forceful in their play, but lacked incisiveness and penetration. However, their grit paid off, as Hoffenheim striker Chinedu Obasi turned the ball from his right foot onto his left before unleashing a thunderbolt that Egypt keeper El Hadary failed to hold.

The crowd grew louder with appreciation after the goal, but yet another half full stadium was a disappointing sight considering the players on display.

Nigeria had a penalty call turned down, as an Egyptian



DEJECTED... Super Eagles striker Ogbuke Obasi reacts after Nigeria lost their African Nations Cup opening match against Egypt at the Ombaka Stadium in Benguela, Angola yesterday.

defender mistakenly stopped a cross with a hand, following Obasi's kick in the box.

Nigeria used their strength to stop the quick and nimble Egyptians, and the speed of the Super Eagles down the flanks was something to behold, as a blistering run and cross from Taiwo in the 21st minute found Uche in the box, but the Almeria player blasted over when he should have made it 2-0.

In the 34th minute, Taiwo's speed created yet another opportunity for the Super Eagles to increase the tally, as his cross into the centre of the box from the line, met Uche whose powerful shot went wide.

It was from the goal kick that Egypt level scores, when a fine through ball found Emad Meteeb, who dribbled around the onrushing Enyeama before slipping the

ball into an empty net.

On resumption, Nigeria threatened once more with John Obi Mikel, as the Chelsea player forced his way into the area before a poor touch allowed Egypt to clear.

In the 54th minute Egypt took the lead for the first time in the game, as dangerman Zidan found his captain Ahmed Hassan crack home the lead with a thunderous

strike, which took a deflection off Taiwo and into the net.

Both sides lost opportunities to increase their tally, until Nagy Gedo took the match beyond Nigeria with a strike outside the box in the 87th minute to secure a comfortable win for the Pharaohs.

Nigeria will meet Benin Republic in the next match on January 16, while Egypt tackles Mozambique on the same day.

Eagles' performance heartbreaking - Hamilton

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE disappointing performance against the 6th time African champions, Pharaohs of Egypt, in the ongoing African Nations Cup has been described as not only disappointing but heartbreaking.

Making this condemnation yesterday in a telephone interview with Trustsport s, former handler of the Super Eagles, Paul Hamilton, noted with dis-

appointment how the Eagles lost the match which they had in their hands by scoring the first goal.

Hamilton said the team that Coach Amodu Shuaibu paraded yesterday was full of players that showed no understanding, coordination or discipline, saying immediately after they got their first and only goal, they went to bed thinking that the game had already been won.

"The Super Eagles I saw played below what some of us expected.

At a time I was asking myself whether it was Super Eagles that was playing or another team. The boys went to bed after scoring just only one goal, instead of going all out to get more goals.

"I want to believe that most of the players paraded in the match were not fit enough to be in the tournament. The question as to whether the boys were fit for the match or why they could not continue to pile more pressure on the Egyptians to get more goals has

to be answered by Amodu," he fumed.

He lamented the dropping of some young and more agile players like Dele Adeleye from the team, saying most of the players in the defence line up of Nigeria have no business being in the team.

On whether Nigeria can still make it beyond the first round, the coach, fondly called 'Wonder boy' during his playing days, said Nigeria is currently walking a tight rope and if care is not tak-

ing, this tournament may be the worst for the team.

"If we fail to qualify from our group, that is going to be a very bad way to start another sporting year. To avoid that, we have to win our last two matches against Benin Republic and Mozambique. Unfortunately, this loss has put us under pressure, which may affect us in those two matches," he reasoned.



2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Chipolopolo aim to shoot down Carthage Eagles

Burkinabe coach explains tactics

BURKINA Faso coach Paulo Duarte set out an overly defensive stall against tournament favourites Ivory Coast and was left pleased with the outcome.

The Burkinabes were beaten twice during World Cup qualifying by the Ivorians, and Duarte says Monday's outcome vindicated his tactics.

"During those two games I had opted for a very offensive strategy and we lost," he said. "Tonight, we didn't make a great match, but I won one point."

The Ivorians were left frustrated, and with just one more match to play after Togo withdrawal, coach Vahid Halilhodzic admitted his team faces a tough task to reach the quarterfinals.

"We are now in a very difficult situation. But we still have all the cards in our hands and I know we can go through."

His captain Drogba says the emotions raised after the attack on the Togo team bus played heavily on the players' minds.

"After what happened a few days ago it was difficult to concentrate," he said after the game.

"We do not forget what happened but now the competition has started and we try to focus on the games."

The departure and subsequent disqualification of Togo means Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Ghana will only play two games each in Group B.

Ghezzal: We deserved to lose to Malawi

SIENA striker Abdel Kader Ghezzal may be away representing Algeria at the African Cup of Nations, but he is displeased with his nation's 3-0 loss to Malawi in their opening encounter.

Ghezzal also revealed that the 25-year-old is not fearful of his life, despite the attacks on the Togo national team.

"We played well and deserved to lose," Ghezzal stated to Sportal. "We had some good chances, but were not good enough to capitalise on them."

"This defeat will do us well; as we need to refind the spirit that allowed us to qualify for the World Cup."

"We now need to focus on our next match against Mali, who drew 4-4 with Angola."

"What happened [to Togo] is horrible, and we were all touched by this event."

"I have been paying close attention to our security in the last few days, and we only make secure journeys, which is why the players are tranquil," added Ghezzal.

WHILE the Zambian national team's record of two losses, two draws and a solitary win in combined World Cup and AFCON qualifying may not seem too impressive to those unfamiliar with the team, the fact is that the results don't really indicate just how good they were over the past year.

Pitted in a group against Egypt, Algeria and Rwanda, the Zambians began their campaign in dramatic fashion, outplaying the defending African champions in Cairo where they were unlucky not to nab a heroic win. Though they had to settle for a 1-1 draw, the result, and the way in which it was achieved, rightfully earned them plaudits from around the continent and beyond.

Not only was the away point a great way to get things underway, the result also played a significant role in setting the tone for Egypt's poor run through qualifying. Considering the Pharaohs' dominance over African football in the past six years, holding them in front of their own fans was no small feat.

Even though the Copper Bullets failed to capitalise on this great start, they could have come away with another draw in north Africa, this time against Algeria, but some poor refereeing denied them in Blida as they had a legitimate goal waved away.

In Tunisia, Herve Renard's men will face a side they know well, having played them twice in Rades in the lead-up to the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana, when the Carthage Eagles were still coached by Roger Lemerre. Back then they managed a 2-1 win in the first friendly test and then lost 1-0 in the next one three days later.

The two sides also played each other in the 2006 edition of the tournament and, though they scored the opener in Alexandria, they ended up losing 4-1 against the then defending champions of the continent. This time around they'll be looking for a much better outcome and there's no reasons why they shouldn't aspire to win the game given their capabilities.

The past year was hardly a pleasant one for the Tunisian national team and their fans as they suffered what is perhaps the biggest setback in the country's football history by losing their 2010 World Cup ticket to Nigeria on the last day of qualifying, after having led their group from the outset.

The then coach, Humberto Coelho, was accused of being far too cautious in his last qualifier against Mozambique in Maputo, where his exhausted and unimaginative-looking side were defeated by the cohesive and supremely motivated Mambas unit. Now, with the North Africans still mourning this epic failure, the nation's most successful domestic coach has taken the reins in order to restore some dignity to a team that has been losing its way ever since they failed to defend their 2004 title in Egypt.

The trainer faces a tall task considering he's only been at the helm for little over a month and has made numerous changes to the roster, mostly with an eye on the future, as winning the 2012 African Cup and qualifying for the 2014 World Cup seem like more realistic goals for him.

Nevertheless, he is an over-achiever who has won titles practically everywhere he has



SAIF Ghezal... the Tunisian defender has enjoyed several African successes at club level.

coached, and thus the Carthage Eagles could go a step further than people expect if things go his way. His main issue is whether or not he will be able to change Tunisia from a coun-

ter-attacking side that packs the midfield and uses a solitary striker, to one that uses two front men, relies on high pressure to suffocate their opponents and also attacks as a unit.

Ivorians eye Ghana scalp

TOURNAMENT favourites Ivory Coast have set their sights on defeating Ghana after they failed to justify their overwhelming status as top dogs in the Nations Cup against Burkina Faso.

While the Ivorians created opportunities in the game, they were also frustrated by a resolute Burkinabe team who reduced the Elephants to mostly long range efforts.

And now with their next game due on Friday, the Ivory Coast know anything less than three points over the Black Stars will lead to an early flight back home.

It is something that the always confident Elephants insist won't happen.

"We are really confident and we know that against Ghana will be a really tough game but we will qualify and we will have to work really hard," Yaya Toure said.

"They (Ghana) are really good and one of the best on the continent. We need to show character now and I'm really confident and we are ready to fight."

Ivory Coast coach Vahid Halilhodzic admitted his team faces a tough task to reach the quarterfinals. "We are now in a very dif-

ficult situation.

"But we still have all the cards in our hands and I know we can go through."

Ghana and Ivory Coast have had a lively rivalry at international level after the Ivorians beat Ghana in back-to-back games at the Nations Cup in 1992 and 1994. Ghana then won at the 1996 tournament but the Ivorians stunned then co-host Ghana in front of their home fans in 2000.

Ghana won the last meeting between the two sides 4-2 in the third placed Play-off at the 2008 Nations Cup.



HALILHODZIC, Ivory Coast coach



2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Eagles lack speed, creativity - Adepoju

By David Ngobua

FOLLOWING Super Eagles 3-1 defeat yesterday by the Pharaohs of Egypt in the opening match of their group at the on going 27th Africa Cup of Nations in Angola, former Super Eagles player, Mutiu Adepoju has said the team lost the match because it lacked speed in the midfield and there were no penetrating passes to the strikers.

Speaking to Trustsports in a telephone interview after the

the Egyptian strikers.

He said the midfielders failed to put through penetrating passes to the frontline, a development which he said made the Eagles attackers redundant for a greater part of the match.

"One of the reasons why Eagles lost yesterday is that the midfield lacked the speed to close down on their opponents. In the process, there was so much pressure on the defence. And because there was no speed and imagination in the midfield, the attackers were equally starved of penetrating passes. It is only when the midfield is mobile that attackers get quality passes to convert into goals.

"In the remaining matches, something must be done about the midfield. There shouldn't be too much pressure on the defence and attackers should not be starved of penetrating passes," Adepoju stressed.

Adepoju said in as much as they failed to take advantage of the early lead courtesy of Chinedu Obasi's goal, there is still hope for the team if the remaining two group matches are won.

He maintained that for Eagles to stand any chance of qualifying for the next round of the tournament, they must not fail to beat Benin and Mozambique.

He said the team started very well against Egypt but could not sustain the tempo and that

accounted for their opponents' recovery and eventual victory over them.

Adepoju said the defence, midfield and attack failed to complement one another thereby creating ample opportunities which the Egyptians utilized with relish.

Although they have lost the opening match, I still believe there is hope for the team. They have played the first match and lost so they need not wait for anybody to tell them that they must win the remaining two matches. If they can win the two matches, they will stand a chance of progressing in the championship.

"There must be harmony beginning from the goalkeeper to the attack. The defence must complement the midfield and the midfield must in turn create chances for the attackers. I did not see so much cohesion among the three key departments of the team," he said.

Adepoju expressed confidence that if Eagles survive from their group, they may pick up as the competition progresses and return home with something to show for their participation in the championship.

"This is certainly a shaky start for the Eagles but let us continue to support them. If they can survive from their group, they may be able to come back with something to show for participating in the competition," he added.



SUPER Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu reacts during the African Nation Cup match against Egypt yesterday

Adepoju said the defence, midfield and attack failed to complement one another

match, the General Manager of 3SC FC of Ibadan said because the midfield lacked the necessary speed, it was not possible for the Eagles to close down on their opponents, thereby making their defence vulnerable to attack by

Egypt vs Nigeria Player Ratings

EGYPT

EL Hadary: 6 - Could not get near Obasi's opener but was solid and brave in the majority of his tasks. Nigeria could not truly pressure the veteran.

Gomaa: 7 - A rock at the back for the Pharaohs. A much more physical presence than his two defensive colleagues and was not afraid to throw his weight, and indeed his body, around.

Said: 6 - One of Egypt's most important players, Said gave the likes of Uche and Yakubu little or nothing to work with. Was on hand consistently with key blocks and interceptions.

Fathallah: 6 - Did not start at all well, being turned inside out by Obasi, but his performance levelled after the break.

Fathi: 7 - Constantly raided the right flank against the defensively shy Taiwo. He made a lot of the running, leading to numerous openings for Egypt. He was given the freedom of the wing thanks to Nigeria's narrow midfield.

Moawad: 8 - An outstanding performance from the Ahly wing-back. His tireless energy provided a vital outlet for his

side throughout. His game was best typified in the final minutes, when he robbed Kanu to set up Geddo's goal.

Hassan: 9 - The veteran showed the younger midfielders on the other side how it is supposed to be done. Dropped off, into the correct areas, in order to find the right passes. Deserved the luck he got on his strike.

Ghaly: 5.5 - A relatively quiet showing for the former Tottenham Hotspur man.

Hosni: 6 - Not an all action display by any means but last



ZIDAN

time's player of the tournament was nonetheless involved. Launched attacks through his vision and might have nicked one goal himself.

Zidan: 8 - One of Africa's finest strikers. A selfless display from the Dortmund man, running himself into the ground. He gave the Nigerian back-line no time to settle and was a constant menace. Could have had a brace on another day.

Moteab: 7.5 - Took his goal well but will feel he should have added at least one more. Made all the right runs and was rewarded for his efforts.

Substitutions
El Mohamady: 7 - Continued Fathi's fine work on the right.

Geddo: 7.5 - A great cameo from a potential breakout talent.

Abdelshafi: n/a

NIGERIA

Enyeama: 6.5 - Made a number of crucial saves and displayed confident handling. Well beaten on the goals.

Yussuf: 4.5 - A poor outing. Suffered, like the rest of his back-line, from lapses in concentration and used the ball ineffectively when he crossed the half-way line.

Yobo: 5 - More was expected from the captain of the Super Eagles. He failed to lead the defensive line with any sort of authority and has not formed an effective partnership with Nwaneri.

Nwaneri: 6 - The Sion man was guilty of ball watching in the run up to Moteab's goal and will not be happy with his level of performance.

Taiwo: 6 - At least offered something going forward since he could not stem the Egyptian crosses on his defensive flank.

Ayila: 6 - An effective fulcrum in midfield, willing to take and use the ball but did not want to know once his side went two behind.

Etuhu: 5 - Looked rudderless at times, like a spare man in the middle. Was neither defensive anchor like Ayila nor playmaker like Mikel.

Mikel: 7 - Why was he taken off? Nigeria's most capable playmaker was withdrawn despite being the only midfielder responsible enough to take hold of the ball and try to make something happen. Needs to brush up on his pass selection but the Super Eagles are a better side with him, rather than without.

Obasi: 8.5 - The best player in green on the day. His goal was a joy to behold and his skill, pace and trickery gave the likes of Fathallah a torrid time. To think, his place in the squad, let alone the team, was in doubt. He must start, even if Martins is fit.

Uche: 5 - Leaned back on his only true chance and was not the mobile point of reference he needed to be.

Yakubu: 5 - Still working his way back to fitness and was way off the pace here.

Substitutions
Obinna: n/a Scarcely got a look in.

Kanu: n/a Robbed in the run up to Egypt's third.



YOBO

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

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Mutallab as metaphor for America's power problem

Last Thursday America's president, Mr. Barack Obama, spoke about the outcome of the review of US intelligence he ordered in the wake of the failed Christmas bombing of an airline in American airspace allegedly carried out by Mr. Farouk Umar Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian passenger in the airline which was travelling between Amsterdam, Holland, and Detroit.

The review, he said, has shown that the failure of American intelligence to "prevent a known terrorist from boarding a plane to America," was essentially a failure of information management. "In sum," he said, "the U.S. government had the information - scattered throughout the system - to potentially uncover this plot and disrupt the attack. Rather than a failure to collect and share intelligence, this was a failure to connect and understand the intelligence that we had."

This, I am afraid, is fundamentally a misdiagnosis of the risk that America faces from so-called Islamic terror, at least in the long run. What Obama has said in effect is that American intelligence must be foolproof. This is an impossible standard for anything human. American intelligence is only human and can therefore never get it right each and every time. A more sensible, if not the only, solution therefore is to eliminate the root cause of the problem.

In this sense the greatest danger America faces from so-called Islamic terror is not of another 9/11, horrible as it is to contemplate. The greatest danger, as one, Stephen Flynn, said in an article in last year's Special Edition of Newsweek, is that the country is almost likely to overreact in the event of another 9/11. If the failed Christmas attack allegedly by an apparently misguided young man would lead an American president, who is as liberal as they come, into putting the man's country of origin on America's terror watch list which includes countries like Somalia, Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan, that are theatres of war, one shudders to think what he would have done if the bombing had succeeded.

I have said it repeatedly before on these pages - the last time being only last week - that so-called Islamic terror is the consequence of America's abuse of its massive military might and therefore the only real solution to the problem is to put an end to American hegemony in the region as in elsewhere; but this bears repeating again and again.

A recent book by Christopher A. Preble, Director of Foreign Policy Studies at the American Cato Institute and a former commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, titled *THE POWER PROBLEM: How American Military Dominance Makes Us Less Safe, Less Prosperous and Less Free*, underscores the validity of the argument that America's over reliance on its military might abroad to secure its interests constitutes the greatest danger unto itself.

As Preble pointed out, if America's mighty war machine "did not deter nineteen angry young men from flying airplanes into buildings on 9/11," twice or even three times as mighty a war machine could not have. On the contrary such a machine stationed abroad especially in predominantly Muslim countries as America's is, as he said, is propaganda tool for recruitment by Al'Qaida and similar organizations in a world where no one likes being under anybody's jackboot, more so a foreigner's.

Gore Vidal, an American essayist, put it even more bluntly in a collection of his essays titled *The Last Empire*. America which likes calling the countries it does not like

rogue states, he said, has since "become the largest rogue state of all. We strike unilaterally whenever we choose. We complain of terrorism, yet our empire is now the greatest terrorist of all. We bomb, invade, subvert other states...Our Congress has been hijacked by corporate America and its enforcer, the imperial machine."

Another American was even more damning by his use of statistics. "From 1945 to 2003," said William Blum in his book, *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and C.I.A. Interventions Since World War II*, "the United States has attempted to overthrow more than 40 foreign governments, and to crush more than 30 populist/nationalist movements fighting against intolerable regimes. In the process, the U.S. bombed some 25 countries, caused the end of life for several million people, and condemned many more millions to a life of agony and despair."

Much as former U.S. president, George Bush, whose fellow neo-conservatives coined the phrase "Islamic terror" would disagree, Blum's statistics is a fitting reply to the rhetorical question he asked in the wake of 9/11 when he said in apparent exasperation, "Why do they hate us?" For Bush, of course, the answer was America's material success and freedom. Yet poll after poll of Main Street everywhere, including the Muslim world, shows clearly that people by and large admire America. What they hate is the overweening use of its mighty force by its leaders, ostensibly to promote its virtues of democracy and free market.

Until America checks itself in its self appointed role of global cop it cannot hope to solve the problem of so-called Islamic terror or, for that matter, any other type of terror.

Mutallab Jr may seem a "crazed, fanatical (and) spoiled brat," to use the rather disagreeable description - at least in my view -

by his namesake, Farooq Kperogi, a writer in the Weekly Trust of January 2, but the widespread condemnation of the young man begs the pertinent question of why anyone, no matter how seemingly crazy, would choose not only to take his own life, ungodly as it is but, worse, take those of others, mostly innocent onlookers, along.

The answer, outrageous as it seems, lies mainly in the element of desperation on the part of the Mutallabs of this world who probably think the answer to America's hegemony, especially as it seeks to stigmatize and even, to some extent, criminalize their beliefs, lies in the use of terror. To rephrase the words of Justice Brandeis of the American Supreme Court in sentencing Timothy McVeigh, the infamous American Alabama bomber, if, as America does in pursuit of its self-interest, it shows total disregard for international laws and conventions when it reckons that they get in the way, then they invite everyone to do the same.

"Crime," said Justice Brandeis, "is contagious. If the government becomes the lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the laws; it invites everyman to become a law unto himself."

Apology

The editors at *Saharareporters.com* have drawn my attention to my mistake two weeks ago when I accused them of sloppy journalism by prematurely reporting the death of Maryam, former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida's wife. The authors of two texts and a phone call I received seeking confirmation of the first rumours of her death said they had read the story on the website. I took their word for it but have since learnt that was my mistake.

I wish to apologize to *Saharareporters* for the error.

SPORTS REPORT



PRESIDENT Yar'adua

Yar'adua wishes Eagles success in Angola

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua yesterday sent goodwill message to the Super Eagles currently campaigning for honours at the 27th edition of the African Cup of Nations in Angola. The Super Eagles, who are battling for second round ticket in group C, will also face Benin Republic and

Mozambique on January 16 and 20 respectively in Benguela after yesterday's opening tie against Egypt.

The President spoke for the first time since he travelled out of Nigeria on November 23 for medical check up in Saudi Arabia on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) yesterday.



MICHAEL Essien

Essien stuck in England by bad weather

Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien is expected to arrive in Angola on Wednesday to play in the African Cup of Nations after poor weather in England delayed his flight.

Essien, who also struggled to get a visa for Angola, is set to leave England on Tuesday and arrive in Luanda the following day, the Ghanaian football federation said.

Essien was set to join his teammates Sunday night in Cabinda but was forced to stay in London after extreme weather delayed flights out of England.

The Black Stars midfielder, who has recovered from a hamstring injury, is expected to play in Ghana's first game Friday against Ivory Coast in Group B.